

سكنا من اجل

Calta backs Havel for president

PRAGUE (AP) — Prime Minister Marian Calfa, endorsing a drive to make Václav Havel Czechoslovakia's new president, led the new government's first cabinet in a display of support for the opposition playwright Tuesday. But parliament took so long debating an economic and social programme presented by Calfa and his ministers that discussion on electing Havel was delayed. Calfa, who became prime minister nine days ago, outlined a programme aimed at transforming Czechoslovakia gradually into a free market economy. The federal assembly then took a break before discussing a proposed change in the constitution to extend the time limit for choosing a successor to president Gustav Husak, who resigned immediately after swearing Calfa's government into office. According to the present constitution, parliament should elect a new president by January. Calfa and other ministers urged the deputies not to delay the election long, and several speakers said Havel should be elected by the end of the year. "Nothing can divert Czechoslovakia from the road it is on to democracy," Calfa told the federal assembly.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية «الراي»

'E. Europe not a model for Arabs'

MUSCAT (AP) — Oman's information minister said Tuesday that the Arab Gulf states support the changes in Eastern Europe, but do not consider them a blueprint for their own region. "In Eastern Europe, people have chosen their own way of life," Minister Abdul Aziz Ben Mohammad Rowas said in brief remarks to reporters. "Our people are tribal. They are happy with their system." Rowas was elaborating on comments made by Sultan Qaboos at the opening session Monday of a four-day summit of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Qaboos said the Gulf states had to take advantage of changes in the world to ensure a meaningful role in world affairs. Rowas said it was important for the Gulf states to contribute to the changes by airing their own views. Tuesday's main session of the six leaders, scheduled for the afternoon, was postponed until the evening. The meetings are being held at the Al Bustan palace hotel, built on a beach outside Muscat for the 1985 summit here. Youssef Ben Alawi, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, said the leaders listened to reports on numerous political issues in the evening session.

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Badran presents programme to Parliament Government freezes martial law, tightens corruption battle

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Mudar Badran announced Tuesday the government was freezing martial law in the country ahead of abolishing it, and pledged to pursue democratic change and fight economic crimes and corruption.

Presenting his government programme to the Lower House of Parliament, Badran, who took office Dec. 6, said the government would set up a constitutional court and amend legislation to speed up the process of lifting martial law, which is in force in the Kingdom since 1967.

In another measure seen by observers as a step towards lifting immunity from prosecution of high-ranking political and administrative officials, the prime minister said that his government would annul all legislation which "provide immunity to administrative officers against contest from the judiciary."

"My government will cooperate with your council to uncover the various facades of financial corruption and will not tolerate corruption" or leniency, Badran told the House, which is expected to take a vote of confidence on the government Dec. 30.

In another move seen as curbing corruption at high level, the prime minister promised legislation that would make it mandatory on all senior govern-

ments to disclose their financial status. The disclosure, he said, will be made to a "certain authority to be named by law."

Every senior official will have to submit "a comprehensive and documented report on all his possessions, and those of his wife and children, including real estate and liquid property, together with any change in the status of these possessions during his term in office," Badran said.

Badran responded favourably to calls that the House be allowed to participate in the drafting of the proposed national charter which His Majesty King Hussein announced in the speech from the Throne when he opened Parliament Nov. 27.

"The government will take whatever measures to execute this sublime mission with the cooperation of your council," Badran told the House.

Badran highlighted the importance of providing the judiciary system with "independence... immunity and supreme standing." Badran said the government was determined to establish the rules of reference to the judiciary alone "and to take the required steps to ensure speedy and competitive performances."

Economy

Badran said that his government would adopt several financial and monetary policies alongside other economic action

geared towards self-sufficiency in agricultural production and small-scale production by the private sector and spread the tax burden in a just manner among all categories of the society.

Badran's economic policy, according to the statement, will not deviate from the general policy adopted by the transitional government of Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker which was in power from April to November.

Badran indirectly criticised the recession in the growth rate and in the volume of investment which he said resulted in the falling of the standard of living and per capita income.

He said that this policy also resulted in the government moving towards larger spending which culminated in the accumulation of deficit in the general budget and depleted the government's foreign currency reserves and increased the volume of debt.

Badran said that his government would continue in the footsteps of Ben Shaker's government and "will develop this programme to become a comprehensive national programme that will achieve more investment opportunities and will improve the standard of living of the citizens."

He said his government would limit governmental borrowing, both internal and external, within the limitations of the general budget law.

The premier said that the government would work towards con-



Mudar Badran

forcing the independence of the Central Bank in order to secure its role in preserving monetary stability and stabilise the value of the dinar as well as building up the national reserves of foreign currency.

Foreign policy

Badran reaffirmed Jordan's historic and national bond with the Palestinian people and said his government would remain committed to stand by the Arab people of Palestine in their just struggle and in backing their uprising.

Badran reiterated Jordan's adherence to its disengagement from the Israeli-occupied West Bank as announced by King Hussein in July 1988, but added that the government would seek to alleviate the human and personal effects entailed by the decision of disengagement.

"We will take measures to ease the agony and to remove sufferings without touching the core of this decision," Badran said.

On the Gulf scene, Badran said

(Continued on page 5)
(See page 4 for full text of the prime minister's statement)

King, Arafat discuss peace efforts, increased coordination

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian and Palestinian leaders Tuesday discussed the latest developments in the Middle East peace process and means to achieve a comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem.

His Majesty King Hussein and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who arrived here earlier in the day, held a closed meeting before being joined by high-level delegations from both sides, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

The two sides also discussed Jordanian-Palestinian relations and "means to further develop them with a view to supporting the Palestinian struggle for an independent Palestinian state," the news agency said.

It did not elaborate. But the impasse in the Middle East peace process was expected to figure high in the meetings, which included a working dinner.

The Jordanian side to the meetings included His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and Information Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Ibrahim Izzeddine. A high-level delegation including several members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee, attended the talks on the Palestinian side.

Arafat was received upon arrival at Queen Alia International Airport by Prime Minister Badran. The visit marked the first by Arafat to Jordan since the Kingdom's first general elections in 22 years, and the formation of Badran's cabinet.

Arafat is accompanied on his visit to Jordan by PLO Executive Committee members Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Yasser Abed Rabbo and Abdullah Hourani, Arafat's advisor Bassam Abu Sharif, and Abbas Zaki, a newly-elected member of the Central Committee of Fateh, the largest



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (Photo by Youssef Al 'Altam)

PLO faction, as well as Mamdough Nofel, a senior member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. PLO Executive Committee members Mohammad Milhem, Bishop Elia Khoury and Abdul Razak Al Yahya — all of them living in Jordan — joined the delegation's talks in Amman.

Tuesday evening, Badran paid a courtesy visit to Arafat at this residence at the Guest Palace and conferred with the Palestinian delegation.

Badran is known to have maintained cordial ties with Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and president of the State of Palestine, during his two previous terms as prime minister between 1977 and 1984 — an era which witnessed a gradual rise in coordination between Jordan and the PLO.

In an arrival statement, Arafat congratulated the Jordanians for the Nov. 8 general elections, and paid tribute to the King for opening a democratic era in the country. He said Jordanian-Palestinian relations had reached such a point that "it is not just coordination... we are one family."

Badran, also in a statement upon Arafat's arrival, reiterated

Jordan's support for the steps adopted by the PLO towards advancing the peace process. "(In Jordan) we are Palestinians in everything pertaining to the Palestinian cause... and we support all PLO efforts, for they are in the interest of the Palestinian people," he said.

King Hussein's talks with Arafat will bear special significance since they would be the first since U.S. Secretary of State James Baker launched his five-point plan for an opening round of Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

The PLO has conveyed, through the Egyptian government, its acceptance to "deal with the plan" provided the organisation retains a central and direct role in the suggested dialogue and that it should lead to the convening of an international peace conference.

Since then the PLO has been lobbying for an official and unified Arab support for a full-fledged PLO role in all the stages in the peace process. PLO officials told the Jordan Times that such an Arab stand was essential to enhancing the PLO's insistence on a full role prior to the suggested meeting in Washington next month between

the American, Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers. Recent contacts by the Jordan Times with Jordanian and PLO officials indicate that the two sides meet at this stage on two extremely important points:

— Opposition and determination to block any attempt that would lead to a settlement based on creating a substitute homeland for the Palestinians in Jordan; and

— Opposition to steps that would exclude the PLO from the peace process. The strong common denominators were underscored by the Jordanian stand during a recent meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis. Jordan was one of four Arab countries which sent their foreign minister to attend the meeting called by the PLO to support the Palestinian intifada and the organisation's position vis-a-vis the Baker plan.

Furthermore, analysts expect Palestinian-Jordanian coordination to pick up new momentum, particularly that the one-year-old U.S.-PLO dialogue has reached a deadlock over the obvious American opposition to the idea of an independent Palestinian state.

Virtual martial law seen in many parts

Hundreds reported killed in Romania

BUDAPEST (Agencies) — Large parts of Romania were reported to be under virtual martial law Tuesday following weekend clashes between demonstrators and armed security forces in which hundreds of people may have died.

As Romania sealed all its borders with the outside world, Hungarian radio reported that clashes were continuing in the Transylvanian town of Timisoara, some of what appears to have been a bloodbath when police and troops fired on protesters.

The radio quoted a young Hungarian with relatives working as doctors in Timisoara as saying 250 people died in one hospital alone, and estimated the final toll at 300 to 400.

"Hundreds are lying in the hospitals with terrible injuries, bullet wounds, contusions, others crushed by tanks," he said.

Timisoara was said to be sealed off by tanks and armoured cars, and travellers reported heightened military activity across the country.

In the capital Bucharest, the airport was reported to be ringed with tanks, and in Brasov, central Romania, a Czechoslovak tourist said he saw swarms of helicopters.

"For me as a former soldier it looks like real martial law in Romania," a Bulgarian truck driver said at the border.

"I saw hundreds of soldiers and others must have been mobilised because there were people with-

out uniforms but wearing armbands and carrying automatic weapons."

The Soviet Union showed concern on Tuesday at the events in Romania and TASS said heavily armed troops and militia are patrolling the streets of Bucharest.

Moscow said restrictions were in force on their common border.

Tension is high in the city, TASS said.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said in Brussels he had "preliminary information about some unpleasant things that have happened there."

In a report from the Romanian capital, TASS said state institutions and factories were under intensified guard.

Ryzhkov survives congress vote

MOSCOW (Agencies) — The Soviet government Tuesday easily survived an unprecedented vote of no-confidence in the Congress of People's Deputies, which was called for by deputies opposing the government's economic plans.

The plan, proposed by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, retains the strong central control of the economy that critics say has led to the country's severe shortage of food and consumer goods. The plan was approved after the no-confidence vote failed.

The congressional showdown left the normally cool Ryzhkov, 60, with his voice cracking from emotion as he pleaded for clear-cut support of his economic package.

"The congress should not avoid making an evaluation. It must express its firm position: either to support the government's proposals, of course considering the remarks made here, or some other formulation," he told the 2,250-member congress.

After his appeal, the no-confidence vote was rejected 199-1,685, with 99 abstentions.

Critics say the plan does not go far enough to overhaul a plodding bureaucratic system and encourage greater production and efficiency by embracing free-market mechanisms.

Winding up the debate, President Mikhail Gorbachev warned deputies that any attempt to amend the proposals introduced by Ryzhkov would spell rejection of the whole programme.

"Either you support the programme or you amend it, which means you do not support it at all," Gorbachev said.

The first stage of Ryzhkov's six-year plan calls for price reform starting in 1991, more consumer goods and food production, and a big cut in the budget deficit by 1993.

In the second stage, from 1993 to 1995, there would be more moves towards a market-based system in which the government would increasingly use prices, taxes, credit and investment to steer the economy.

Leading Gaza surgeon jailed for Hamas role

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A leading surgeon in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip has been jailed for more than two years for helping establish an Islamic group of the Palestinian uprising.

A Gaza military court Monday sentenced Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi, 45, for his leading role in the Islamic resistance movement Hamas.

Doctor Rantisi, head of medical clinic at the Islamic University in Gaza City, was sentenced to two-and-a-half years in prison and two-and-a-half years suspended after admitting membership of the organisation, the army said.

He was accused of helping prepare the first Hamas leaflet of the uprising in December 1987 and

distributing funds to Hamas activists. Palestinians said he had been in jail for most of the uprising.

Other Hamas activists, led by the movement's spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, go on trial in the Gaza Strip next week on charges of hostile activities that include the murder of two Israeli soldiers.

Israeli military sources estimate Hamas would receive 30 per cent of the vote were elections held in the occupied West Bank and Gaza.

Contacts with PLO

The father of a missing Israeli soldier said Tuesday he twice travelled to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters

in Tunis with the government's permission to seek the release of his son.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said that for humanitarian reasons he authorised families of three soldiers missing in action to meet with PLO leaders despite a law banning such contacts.

"To get information, family members may hold meetings without any reservations or limitations, and with our financing," Rabin said.

Rabin's sanctions of meetings came at a time of intense debate about whether Israel should negotiate peace with the PLO and his move may be used by advocates to justify establishing political contacts.

Rabin said contacts were authorised for the families of three

soldiers missing since the battle with Syrian forces at Sultan Yaakoub in eastern Lebanon on June 11, 1982, during Israel's invasion of Lebanon.

The three missing soldiers are Zvi Feldman, Zachary Baumei and Yehuda Katz.

Baumei's father, Yona, said that PLO executive member Yasser Abed Rabbo invited him to Tunisia and that he went twice to PLO headquarters last January after he received Rabin's okay.

Baumei, whose son Zachary turned 29 last month, said the talks did not produce results because the PLO leaders "made promises they could not keep."

"We are very optimistic that our son and others are still alive. This is a result of information we received," said Baumei.

Israel buys Iranian oil; hostage link seen

NEW YORK (AP) — Israel has bought \$36 million worth of oil from Iran to help free three Israeli military men captured in Lebanon, it was reported Tuesday.

Israeli representatives also have discussed the possibility of selling Iran spare parts for its Western-made military hardware, the U.S. television network NBC reported Monday night, citing unidentified sources in U.S. and Israeli intelligence.

In addition to winning Iran's help in seeking the release of Israel's, the oil purchases and a potential spare parts deal are intended to bolster Iran's position against a common enemy, Iraq, NBC said.

The United States confirmed that Israel had bought oil from Iran and informed Washington of the purchase after the fact.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler told reporters that Israel had volunteered the information "a month

ago, after the fact."

"Israel informed us a month ago after the fact that it had concluded a deal with Iran for purchase of Iranian oil. Foreign countries do not seek U.S. approval for oil purchases from a third country," she said.

Spokesmen for Israel's energy, foreign and defence ministries refused Tuesday to comment on the report. The defence ministry also refused to allow reporters to talk to Uri Lubrani, mentioned in the NBC report as the man who dealt with the Iranians in Switzerland.

Lubrani is responsible for Israel's Lebanon policy and served as ambassador to Iran before the revolution that swept Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to power in 1979.

The United States is backing the deal in hopes that it could lead to the release of nine U.S. hostages held in Lebanon, NBC said.

The two million barrels worth

\$36 million was delivered in November, NBC said.

Though Iran's leaders are avowedly anti-Israel, the deal would give the country's struggling economy badly needed foreign currency.

With a world oil glut, Israel has no problem buying enough oil to meet its 170,000-barrel-a-day requirement.

Joseph Alpher of the Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies, executive editor of the centre's annual "Middle East Military Balance," said Israel had other considerations that could justify ties with Iran, apart from seeking the release of its prisoners.

"Iraq is getting stronger every day by acquiring... arms that threaten us," Alpher said on Israel television. "There is a reason to see to it that Iran can continue confronting and diverting the Iraqi forces."

"Beyond that, Iran has oil, Iran has Jews and all these are

good reasons for renewal of connections with Iran, without any relation to the governing regime," he said.

In addition to negotiating the oil purchase, Lubrani discussed a possible deal for spare military parts Iran has difficulty buying from Western countries, NBC said. He also discussed the fate of the three Israelis held by Lebanese extremists, who look to Iran for inspiration.

On Sunday, Israeli officials said they were holding Iran responsible for the safety of at least one Israeli captive, Ron Arad, a navigator whose F-4 Phantom fighter jet went down in South Lebanon in October 1986.

Arad's wife, Tami, said on Israel radio that she had learned her husband was in the hands of the Iranians. Uri Slonim, a defence ministry adviser on prisoners of war, then said that Mrs. Arad's statement had been coordinated with security officials.

Shelled out palace is centre of Lebanese power struggle

By Donna Abu-Nasr
Associated Press

BAABDA — The ruins of Lebanon's presidential palace, clobbered by more than 4,000 shells and squabbled over by rival leaders, symbolises the country's fragmentation after 14 years of civil war.

To some, the carnal atmosphere among young loyalists of rebellious military leader Gen. Michel Aoun, who is holed up in a bunker under the rubble, seems like the Lebanese equivalent of Nero playing his fiddle while Rome burns.

Aoun, fired by Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi as army commander and head of a caretaker military government, refuses to step down or quit the palace he made his headquarters 15 months ago.

Hrawi, elected on Nov. 24, insists on occupying the hilltop palace, the symbol of state authority, even if it was hammered to pieces during Aoun's "war of liberation" with the Syrians between March and September.

Hrawi was forced to set up his headquarters in a secure army barracks in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley in east Lebanon after his predecessor, Rene Muawad, was assassinated only 17 days into his presidency.

But he was declared he'll oust Aoun to rule from the palace "even if there's only one room left."

Their conflict centers on Aoun's rejection of an Arab League-brokered peace accord to end the civil war because it does not contain cast-iron guarantees of a withdrawal by the Syrians. Aoun considers them an occupying force.

The stocky Maronite Catholic general, whose 20,000 troops hold the Falangist enclave north of Beirut, defiantly holds televised news conferences in his underground bunker below the U-shaped palace, vowing to go down fighting with kitchen knives if he has to.

Outside a "human shield" of his young supporters dance and sing and chase girls within range of Syrian artillery in the bluffs overlooking the palace compound.

A huge banner near the main entrance reads "the general's palace is the people's palace."

Information Minister Edmond Rizk huffed that Aoun has "turned the palace into a stage of an opera and his bunker into a television studio."

The Syrian bombardment this year was the worst the palace has suffered since it was built in 1966.

Rebel Muslim troops blasted President Suleiman Franjeh from the palace in 1976 and it was regularly hit in civil war shellfire when Franjeh's successors, Elias Sarkis and Amin Gemayel, lived there.

Now, only a skeleton remains. The walls that are left standing are full of holes. Birds fly in and out of the broken windows of what used to be the large banquet hall.

Dirty curtains hang in the offices used by Aoun's aides and broken windows have been filled in with stone blocks and blue, sand-filled barrels inscribed "glucose syrup."

Knee-high weeds, empty plastic containers and uprooted trees litter the once immaculate lawns and gardens. Huge mounds of earth line the courtyard where cypress, palm and pine trees once stood.

The director-general of the palace, Joseph Jraisati, said some of the mosaics and paintings that adorned the palace walls were destroyed by the Syrian bombardment.

"It was difficult to move them to safety," he said. "But we've been able to salvage some valuable items like carpets, vases and antique furniture."

He said Aoun's bunker, two stories under the palace, has been reinforced and "it can now withstand air raids."

The general rarely emerges from his bunker, except to give pep talks to his supporters who ring the palace in the belief that the Syrians will not risk killing unarmed civilians in an assault.

"We're here to stop them attacking," said 16-year-old Khalil Salem as a ghetto-blaster nearby belted out a song

assuring Aoun: "You have tough men that drink blood."

Asked what he'd do if the Syrians did start shelling again, Salem said: "I'd shelter in the bunker with the general."

Clusters of coloured tents where about 500 young men are camped out nestle among trees around the palace.

But what started as a demonstration of support for the general has turned into a student carnival that contrasts with the very real threat of another eruption of fighting.

The Ad Diyar daily, published in east Beirut, recently carried an ad placed by the pro-Aoun movement to support liberation inviting all citizens to a "musical soiree at the People's Palace... with the participation of a selection of the best musicians and artists."

Aoun's young loyalists form circles and sing and perform the traditional "dabke" dance. Others listen to Madonna and Michael Jackson on the radio.

"I don't want to go to school. I want to liberate," said Roger, 16. He didn't give his family name "because I sometimes cross to west Beirut," the capital's mainly Muslim sector.

Asked how his presence was helping Aoun's call for liberation, Roger said: "I come here and sing and dance and have fun with the others. That helps boost the morale of the army."

"I've also met some nice girls here," he added ingenuously.

Iranian parliament condemns arrest of 4 in U.K.

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A number of Iranian parliament members Tuesday urged their Foreign Ministry to take "appropriate" steps to protect four Iranians arrested in Britain under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the request was contained in a letter read in parliament by Speaker Mahdi Karubi.

The letter said the four Iranians were arrested in Manchester Friday following demonstrations against Salman Rushdie in more than 1,000 mosques throughout Britain earlier this month, the radio said.

It quoted the letter as saying the Iranians were arrested because "the glory and size of the demonstrations had angered British authorities."

If England does not change its hostile stance against Islam and does not apologise to Muslims, the wave of these demonstrations in England will surely increase," the radio quoted Karubi as saying. The letter called for unspecified "appropriate" steps to protect those arrested.

The three students and a disabled father of four were arrested Friday at their homes in Manchester, police said. Under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, suspects can be held for seven days without being charged.

Solicitor Zahir Aziz said "the police have told me very little but the men are under the impression they have been arrested because they are suspected of being a hit squad to kill Salman Rushdie."

Iran's late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in February decreed that Muslims should seek out and kill the Indian-born British writer for blaspheming Islam in his novel The Satanic Verses.

Rushdie has been in hiding ever since under police protection.

The Iranian media reported following the death call in February that hit squads were being dispatched to Britain to kill Rushdie.

At the time, Iranian religious leaders offered a \$5 million bounty for Rushdie's head.

Former Afghan minister defects

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (R) — A former minister of the Soviet-backed Afghan government, Pachagul Wafadar, said Tuesday he had defected to Pakistan-based rebels with whom he had secret contacts for 10 years.

He told a news conference in the northwestern Pakistani town of Peshawar that he had left Afghanistan on orders from the radical Hezb-i-Islami guerrilla party of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, leaving his wife, a son and a daughter in Kabul.

Wafadar, 44, was civil aviation minister in the short-lived cabinet of Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq formed in June last year. He was replaced in a cabinet reshuffle eight months later.

Wafadar said he had joined Sharq's cabinet on a Hezb directive as one of several ministers not belonging to the ruling People's Democratic Party so that he could help the guerrilla struggle to oust President Najibullah's government.

He said now he would openly work for the guerrilla cause.

Iraq slams Iran over PoWs

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq criticised its Gulf war foe Iran Tuesday for attaching conditions to the exchange of prisoners of war, saying Tehran was trying to bring pressure on Baghdad over the stalemate peace talks.

The Iraqi News Agency (INA) quoted Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz as telling International Committee of the Red Cross envoy Angelo Gnaedinger Iran "insists on keeping the issue of war prisoners unresolved to... use it as a pressure card for bargaining."

Iran has offered to swap all captives provided that Iraq withdraws from Iranian territory which Tehran says it still occupies.

Aziz called on the world community to urge Iran to accept an immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners. INA

fighting in their eight-year war in August 1988.

Gnaedinger, who visited Iran last week, is trying to persuade both countries to abide by Article 118 of the Geneva Convention calling for the release of all war prisoners immediately after the end of hostilities.

Iran has offered to swap all captives provided that Iraq withdraws from Iranian territory which Tehran says it still occupies.

Aziz called on the world community to urge Iran to accept an immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners. INA

quoted him as accusing Tehran of violating the Geneva Convention "by its shameful attitude towards that humanitarian issue."

Iraq has asked Gnaedinger to raise with the Iranians the possibility of a Red Cross official visiting Iran to check the conditions of Iraqi prisoners there.

The two countries exchanged more than 400 sick or wounded prisoners under a Red Cross-sponsored accord last year.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said at the United Nations early this month that Iran would shortly release an unspecified number of sick and wounded Iraqi PoWs.

Israel opens embassy in Ethiopia

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel has opened its embassy in Ethiopia and will appoint an ambassador to Addis Ababa in the near future, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

"We opened the embassy yesterday. It is headed by a temporary representative, Meir Yofe, and staffed by a two-member delegation," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

A Foreign Ministry statement said earlier this month that Israel hoped more Jews would emigrate from Ethiopia once Israel established its embassy there.

Ethiopia renewed diplomatic relations with Israel on Nov. 3. It was one of more than a dozen black African nations that severed ties with Israel over the 1973 Middle East war. Some half a dozen have renewed relations since 1982.

Israel officials have declined comment on persistent foreign reports suggesting the renewal of ties would lead to Israeli military aid to Ethiopia in exchange for allowing more Jews to leave the country for Israel.

The Sunday Times of London, for instance, said Israel agreed to supply spare parts for Soviet

weapons in Ethiopia in exchange for emigration of Jews.

Ethiopian immigrants here say as many as 18,000 Jews want to flee the African nation, which has suffered from drought and civil war.

There are about 16,500 Ethiopian Jews in Israel. About 8,000 of them were brought to Israel in a dramatic U.S.-assisted "Operation Moses" airlift in November 1984-January 1985. The airlift was halted after news of it leaked out to the embarrassment of Addis Ababa's Marxist government.

Libya to attend Euro-Arab dialogue

TUNIS (R) — Libya has decided to attend this week's meeting of Arab and European Community foreign ministers in Paris, which it earlier denounced as a plot to drive a wedge between Libya and Syria and the rest of the Arab World.

Libya's Foreign Liaison Bureau (Foreign Ministry), in a statement released by the Libyan News Agency (JANA) Monday evening, said a Libyan delegation would go "in response to a call from brothers and not in response to a call from France."

Libya originally said the meeting should not take place until the European Community (EC) lifted the restrictions which it imposed on contacts with Tripoli in 1986 because of an alleged Libyan role in acts of violence in Europe.

The EC banned arms sales and high-level visits to Syria in 1986 for similar reasons.

Libya's participation seemed even less likely after Libya earlier this month cut shipping links and telecommunications with France in a row over delays in delivering three Mirage fighters which Libya ordered in 1986.

French President Francois Mitterrand had reversed a decision to hand over the planes after Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi wrote him a letter accusing him of

oppressing Muslims.

The Foreign Liaison Bureau, in response to questions from JANA, defended Qadhafi's letter.

"This letter was not private nor bilateral but concerns the Islamic World as a whole... This is what the Muslims decided, this is their will and we are not in a position to refuse this will. The oppression to which thousands of Muslim girls are subjected in France comes within this context," it said.

"We were hoping that the French president would look into the status of Muslim women in France," it added.

Mitterrand considered the letter an interference in the domestic row over Muslim girls who insist on wearing Islamic headscarves to school.

The French president could send Qadhafi a reply and publish it in the press, just as Libya had published Qadhafi's letter in the Libyan press, the Libyan statement suggested.

It accused France of taking a constantly and unjustifiably hostile attitude towards Libya. "We demand an explanation for the French attitude," it said.

"It is regrettable that the Great Jamahiriya (Libya) has begun to be forced to take practical measures to reply... after losing hope in any dialogue or understanding

by friendly methods," it added, apparently referring to the ban on French shipping and the break in telecommunications.

"Improving relations, ending tension and entering a new phase all depend on France and the policy it pursues towards the Jamahiriya," it said.

Diplomats in Tunis said they expected Libya to be represented by an ambassador, not by Foreign Minister Jaddallah Azzouzi Al Talhi.

Arab states have been telling Libya it would be in its interests to attend the Paris meeting if it wanted the EC sanctions against it lifted.

Libya's hostility to the meeting diminished after Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak discussed it with Qadhafi last week.

The sanctions are not on the formal agenda for the meeting but Libya and other Arab states can bring them up in the general debate or outside the formal meetings, diplomats said.

European diplomats said the sanctions issue was too complicated for the two-day Paris meeting to solve. Britain and other EC members from Northern Europe favour retaining the sanctions until Libya breaks its links with groups such as the Fatah Revolutionary Council of Palestinian guerrilla Abu Nidal.

Developing countries urged to join efforts on ozone layer

CAIRO (R) — Holes in the ozone layer caused mainly by industrialised nations may never be repaired unless developing countries join efforts to stop the damage, delegates at a Cairo conference on the environment said.

Scientists say the ozone layer, which protects the Earth's atmosphere from harmful ultraviolet radiation, is being depleted by man-made gases, including CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) used in aerosols, refrigerators and electronics.

After holes in the ozone were detected over the Antarctic, industrialised nations introduced steps to curb and eventually phase out the use of CFCs.

Participants at the conference, organised by the Egyptian government and the U.N. Environ-

ment Programme, warned that this effort would be undermined if developing countries took over technology discarded by the West.

"In 1986, OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries used about one kilogramme of CFCs per head," said British Minister of State for the Environment David Trippier.

"If developing countries were to increase their use to just one-tenth of that and continue at that level indefinitely, then we would never return to the levels needed for us to get rid of ozone holes, even if the rest of the world stopped using (CFCs) altogether."

Destruction of the ozone layer raises the Earth's temperature, phenomenon called the "greenhouse effect."

Under an international agreement signed in Montreal in 1987, the use of CFCs is to be cut by 50 per cent by 1998. Many environmentalists are now pushing to have CFCs eliminated altogether by the end of the century.

"If we don't phase out all CFCs and some other chemicals, there is no way the ozone will be rectified as even with that it will only be rectified by 2070," said Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme.

Delegates said developing countries, for whom environmental issues were less important than basic economic concerns, were part of the problem.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Sudanese junta member in Bahrain

BAHRAIN (R) — A member of Sudan's military junta, the second to visit the Gulf island in a week, is holding talks with Bahraini leaders seeking foreign investment. The Gulf News Agency said Sudanese Navy Colonel Salah Al Din Karar met Commerce and Agriculture Minister Habib Kassem Tuesday to discuss Bahraini investment in underdeveloped Sudan. It said Karar, a member of the 15-man junta that seized power in a coup last June, hopes to promote cooperation between Sudan and Bahrain in trade, agriculture and finance. Sudanese leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir last week discussed investment with Bahrain's Emir, Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, during a tour of Gulf Arab states.

Iranian tanker on fire off Morocco

LAS PALMAS, Canary islands (R) — An Iranian tanker caught fire off Morocco Tuesday and its crew was rescued by a Soviet ship, a Spanish Navy spokesman said. He said navy authorities in the Canary Islands picked up a distress signal from the 116,403-tonne Khark early Tuesday. The tanker, drifting off Casablanca, appeared to be still burning at mid-morning. The spokesman could not say how many crew were aboard but he said all were safely picked up by the Soviet vessel Sarny, due to call at Las Palmas Thursday.

Ceausescu lays wreath in Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, visiting Iran amid violent protests at home, paid tribute to the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini Tuesday and received the gift of a Persian carpet. Ceausescu flew to Tehran on a state visit Monday, his country sealed off after weekend protests against his government in which hundreds of people may have died. Tehran Radio said Ceausescu laid a wreath at the grave of the former Iranian Revolutionary leader and was given a Persian carpet when he visited a weaving workshop in the capital. Ceausescu, heading a 55 strong delegation, was given a red carpet welcome on arrival for a three-day visit aimed at boosting trade. The Iranian media have made no mention of the unrest in Romania.

Diana offers sympathy for hostage

LONDON (AP) — The Princess of Wales offered sympathy and encouragement to the family of kidnapped British journalist John McCarthy who will be spending his fourth Christmas as a hostage in Lebanon. Diana spoke to the journalist's father, 68-year-old Patrick McCarthy, and his eldest son Terry, 35, in front of a picture of John at St. Bride's Church on Fleet Street where a single candle burned for the reporter. The label on the picture stated he had been a hostage for 1,342 days. Patrick McCarthy said he told the princess he expected to have a dismal Christmas without his wife, Sheila, who died of cancer in July, and one of his sons. "But she was very encouraging and said John and the other hostages were in the prayers of the royal family," he said.

Syria condemns abductions

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria's Foreign Minister Tuesday condemned the taking of hostages in Lebanon after meeting with the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Cornelio Sommaruga.

The Swiss official is in Syria as part of his efforts to gain the release of two kidnapped Swiss relief workers, orthopaedic technicians Emmanuel Christen and Elio Enriquez.

The two were seized in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon on Oct. 6. No group has up to now claimed responsibility for their abduction.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) said Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa met with Sommaruga and reiterated Syria's strong condemnation of hostage-taking.

It said Sharaa also pledged that Syria would provide as much assistance as possible in obtaining the release of hostages in Lebanon.

Sommaruga came from Lebanon, where he conferred with President Elias Hrawi at the pres-

ident's temporary headquarters in the Lebanese army barracks of Ablah in Syrian-policed east Lebanon.

A statement distributed by the ICRC office in Beirut said those discussions were "strictly focused on humanitarian issues and ways to win the release of our two kidnapped colleagues."

Eighteen Westerners are held hostage in Lebanon, most of them by pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim groups. The longest held is Terry Anderson, chief Middle East correspondent of the Associated Press, who was kidnapped on March 16, 1985.

A statement by the ICRC said Sommaruga reaffirmed during the talks with Hrawi that the ICRC was determined to continue its work "which is currently effected by the abduction of its two workers."

The statement said Sommaruga appealed for the release of the two captives "so that the delegates of the ICRC could resume their humanitarian mission on all Lebanese territory in a climate of confidence and respect."

Turkey downgrades 2 army divisions; plans more cuts

ANKARA (R) — NATO-member Turkey said Tuesday it had downgraded two army divisions and would make further troop cuts to streamline and modernise its armed forces.

"Two divisions have been dismantled and converted into brigades, and significant economic advantages have been obtained," a Turkish army spokesman told Reuters.

He did not disclose the size of the manpower cut, made in August, but said the army planned further reductions.

An army statement said: "In line with efforts at reducing conventional forces in Turkey and elsewhere, Turkish forces are being reorganised into forces with

sufficient fire power and higher mobility but fewer men.

"The changes will enable modernisation as well as economy in the long run. The fighting capacity of the new brigades has been successfully tested in military exercises this autumn," it said.

Turkey, with an estimated 800,000 conscripts, has the

second largest army in NATO after the United States. Bordered by the Soviet Union and Bulgaria, Turkey guards one-third of NATO's borders with Warsaw Pact countries.

A military source said the two reduced divisions were from the Istanbul-based First Army, which guards the Bulgarian border.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programme
15:50 Educational programme
16:00 News summary in Arabic
16:05 Cairo news message
16:10 Local programme
16:20 News in Arabic
16:30 Arabic programme
16:40 News in Arabic
16:45 Play "Petra"

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Perfecto
18:30 L'Appart
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 Game, Set and Match
22:00 News in English
22:30 A Very British Coup

PRAYER TIMES

05:00 Fajr
06:30 Sunrise (Doha)
11:30 Dhuhr
14:15 Asr
16:30 Maghrib
18:00 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swefliah, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasante Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625363, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 683526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Tel. 815817, 649322

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be warm and some clouds appear at high and medium altitudes. Winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Salah Al Issawi 649028
Dr. Amin Abdul Jabbar 614222
Dr. Wael Khartab 665917
Dr. Khaled Abdo 657129
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asena pharmacy 637055
Nairook pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yaacoub pharmacy 645445
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
AMMAN: Dr. Mahmoud Khalil (—)
Al Shura pharmacy (963236)
ZARQA: Dr. Abdul Karim Khashashneh (—)
Khashashneh 984117

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Police 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 843402
Highway Police 669131
Water and Sewerage 605800
Public Security Department 630321
Police Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Complaints 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Maternity Centre 813813/302
Khadija Maternity, J. Amn 642516/2
Alkhalid Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 623662
Mafes, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushter Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 641646
Italian, Al-Mudajirra 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602449/50
Ansal Hospital 674155
ZARQA: Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)83333
Zarga Maternity Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
JRBH: Princess Batna Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100
AQABA: Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)

UNICEF trains 35 ladies on nutrition, child care

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, a graduation ceremony will be held Wednesday at the end of a two-month UNICEF training course for 35 ladies, mostly mothers, in Nutrition Education and Growth Monitoring of Children under 5 years.

UNICEF initially carried out a study on children's nutrition in Jordan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health. The study highlighted the need to promote awareness of mothers regarding proper feeding and weaning of infants.

Princess Sarvath, upon hearing of the proposed course offered the premises of the Princess Sarvath College in Amman as a venue. Specialists in nutrition from UNICEF, U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) and the Ministry of Health conducted the course.

UNICEF over the past two decades, either independently or in cooperation with official Jordanian agencies and non-governmental organisations, has initiated and funded several health and public information programmes designed to improve the well-being of children and their mothers in Jordan.

Jordan has made significant strides and achievements in reducing and almost eliminating infant mortality through cost-effective health policies such as immunisation, oral rehydration therapy and breast feeding.

UNICEF's recently published 1990 State of the World's Children report puts Jordan in the forefront of countries who have led the world in applying health policies capable of eliminating infant mortality and improving their general health and well-being.

Princess Aysheh engaged

AMMAN — Her Royal Highness Princess Aysheh Bint Al Hussein got engaged Tuesday to Zaid Sa'duddin Juma'a, according to an announcement made by the Royal Court. The announcement said that the engagement ceremony was attended by His Majesty King Hussein, and members of the Hashemite Family. Also attending the engagement were Prime Minister Mudar Badran, Royal Court Chief Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Chief Islamic Justice Mohammad Mahallan, Mr. Sa'duddin Juma'a. The King and all those present during the gathering congratulated Princess Aysheh and her fiancé, on their engagement and expressed their best wishes. (Petra)



North Yemen, Jordan discuss cooperation in water management

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team representing the water and sewerage corporation in North Yemen Tuesday called on the Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Mutaz Al Bilbeisi and discussed North Yemeni-Jordanian cooperation in water-related issues.

The head of the Yemeni delegation said the team's visit is designed to benefit from Jordan's experience in water management and water exploitation through talks with Jordanian officials and water specialists, and a tour of various water and irrigation projects in the Kingdom.

Mohammad Al Faseel called for cooperation between the water authorities in the two countries and requested Jordan's assistance in training Yemeni staff in maintenance and operations work related to water distribution, as well as in the field of environmental health.

Faseel noted that North Yemen seeks to set up a central water control laboratory similar to the one in Jordan with the help of Jordanian specialists.

Bilbeisi for his part, said the two sides will exchange expertise and ideas in the course of implementing agreements within the framework of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Faseel as requesting Bilbeisi to dispatch Jordanian specialists to North Yemen to train North Yemeni personnel in water-related affairs.

He also invited Bilbeisi to visit North Yemen to conclude a memorandum on joint cooperation in administrative, financial and operational activities pertaining to water stations and water distribution in his country.

Princess Basma lauds efforts of voluntary organisations in Salt

SALT (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday visited Salt, in the Balqa governorate, and inspected a number of organisations involved in voluntary and social activities.

Later Tuesday, at a meeting with the heads of these organisations, the Princess, who is chairperson of the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF), discussed a number of problems that tend to impede the work of charity in the governorate, and reviewed measures that should be taken to promote the organisations' activities and programmes.

The Princess voiced her appreciation of the efforts being made in voluntary and charitable work and called for increased participation on the part of the private sector in humanitarian activities.

She said that plans based on sound and strong foundations should be laid down to involve private and public participation in charitable and humanitarian work, and ways should be found to encourage self-reliance on the part of the organisations to partly finance projects.

Salt Mayor Abdul Razzak Nsour was among the speakers at the meeting which was attended by heads of various local institutions.

Nsour said that the Salt Municipality was ready to provide facilities for the charitable and voluntary organisations to promote their essential services to the community.

Princess Basma later heard a review of the organisations' programmes presented by Mohammad Keilani, president of the governorate's Federation of Charitable Organisations. He outlined the federation's activities, services in various fields and plans for the future.

Also Tuesday, Princess Basma opened a children's drawing and painting exhibition by the Salt Women's Society. On display were various drawings by children as well as children's books.

The Princess also opened two charity bazaars displaying handicrafts, clothing and knit-wear by local charitable and voluntary organisations.

Governor Faleh Al Gharaibeh, and the Ministry of Social Development's secretary general were among officials present at the meeting and the subsequent ceremonies.

Mahafzah named Yarmouk president

AMMAN (J.T.) — Yarmouk University is to have a new president, Dr. Ali Mahafzah, to succeed Dr. Mohammad Hamdan who became Minister of Education and Higher Education in the new government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, according to a report in the local press Tuesday.

The decision was taken by the Council of Higher Education, chaired by Dr. Hamdan himself, according to the report.

It said that Mahafzah, who served as President of Mu'ta University, near Karak, will take up the post of Yarmouk University president, and Dr. Awad Khleifat, a former Minister of Youth, will become president of Mu'ta University pending a Royal Decree.

The decision coincided with the release of students involved in clashes at Yarmouk University in the past week.

According to a press report Irbid Governor Jawdat Shoul ordered the release of the students following an expression of deep regret on their part and their parents over the incident in which opposing groups were involved in fights in the campus and outside the university compound resulting in damages to an exhibition inside the university, held on the second anniversary of the intifada.

The report said that all the students were released following a solemn pledge that they will abide by the university regulations and will avoid any actions that might cause disturbances of any sort or harm national unity.

Speakers at the meeting with the governor pledged to uphold the Jordanian-Palestinian unity within the Kingdom, and to refrain from any violations of regulations.

The governor made a brief speech at the meeting, expressing his determination to deal firmly with future disturbances and advising the students to direct their attention towards their studies.

The clashes at Yarmouk University were fully debated by the Lower House of Parliament Saturday, and the incident was strongly condemned by Parliament and the government alike.

Altogether, 13 students were detained for questioning over the affair, and Prime Minister Mudar Badran promised full investigation into the causes of the affair, stressing that the government will not be lenient with the culprits.

Regional seminar to discuss experiments in conducting census

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from nine Arab countries, including Jordan, gathered here Tuesday for a three-day training seminar to discuss Arab countries' experiments in conducting a general population census.

The seminar, which was organised jointly by the Baghdad-based Arab Institute for Training and Research in Statistics and the Department of Statistics in Jordan, will review working papers on statistical research.

The working papers were from the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU), the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Baghdad-based institute and the participating countries.

According to the Statistics Department here, the papers deal with conducting censuses, requirements for conducting a census and training of personnel to take charge of the process.

Japanese community contributes JD 2,008 for citadel museum facelift

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Japanese community in Jordan has made a major contribution to a project to give new life to the archaeological museum in the Amman Citadel.

Their donation of JD 2,008, provided by the Japanese embassy and a number of Japanese companies will be used to support work currently underway on updating displays and providing good labelling for items on show at the museum.

Japanese companies contributing to the project, included C. Itoh and Co., Sumitomo Corp., Kenzo Tange Associates, Nishio Iwai Corp., Fujitsu Ltd, Bridgestone Corp., Marubeni Corp., Mitsubishi Corp. and Mitsui and Co.

The museum project is being carried out by the staff of the Department of Antiquities with the active support of the Friends of Archaeology (FOA), which is providing volunteers for translation, design and layout.

Twenty international experts have also been asked to provide brief introductory texts on different historical periods and important artefacts.

The project is expected to cost JD 4,000 and the Japanese contribution will be supplemented by a contribution from funds raised by the recent Friends of Archaeology charity walk and other sources.

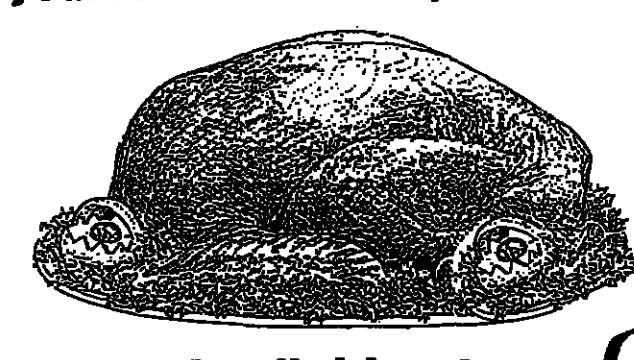
The project organisers, led by FOA member Ingrid Roddis are also looking for more volunteers, particularly those with translation skills or artistic ability.

Celebrate



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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CABINET: The Cabinet met Tuesday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and approved the resolutions adopted by the Arab Economic and Social Council which convened in Tunis last October. The Cabinet endorsed the resolutions adopted at the October meeting of the Arab Committee for Investment. The Cabinet also approved the appointment of Hilal Dhafer Al Saleh as mayor of Beit Aidis, in Irbid Governorate. (Petra)

BELGIAN KING RECEIVES ENVOY: King Boudin of Belgium Tuesday voiced appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein for his active role and continuous endeavours to establish peace, stability and security in the Middle East. At an audience with the Jordanian ambassador to Belgium Hassan Abu Nemeh, who called at the monarch to bid farewell at the end of his tour of duty in Brussels, King Boudin praised the close bilateral relations between the two countries and requested to convey his best wishes to King Hussein. (Petra)

LAWZI RECEIVES QATARI ENVOY: Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Lawzi Tuesday received the Qatari Ambassador in Amman Mubarak Ibn Naser, who called at Lawzi's office to congratulate him on his election as speaker. (Petra)

PARLIAMENT COMMITTEE MEETS: Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Financial Committee Abdullah Al Nsour Tuesday chaired a meeting and discussed its duties and future plans. The other house committees will hold similar meetings next week. The Foreign Affairs Committee, chaired by Taher Masri, will meet Saturday to discuss the general framework of Jordanian diplomatic relations. The administrative committee will meet Sunday and the appeals committee will meet on Dec. 26. (Petra)

ACC MINISTERS ARRIVE: Egyptian, Iraqi and North Yemeni labour and social development ministers arrived in Amman Tuesday to take part in the third meeting of the Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC) labour and social security ministers, which starts here Wednesday. (Petra)

DPA DIRECTOR ARRIVES: The director of the West German News Agency (DPA) in Moscow, Wolfgang Koydl, arrived in Amman Tuesday on a visit and talks with journalists and officials. The DPA official has written a number of articles in support of the Palestinian cause and the Arab Nation in general. (Petra)

MOCK AIR CRASH: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) will organise a mock air crash at Aqaba Airport Wednesday to provide a training exercise for local airport ground services on emergency situations. (Petra)

FEES FOR POST OFFICE BOXES: The Post offices and Postal Saving Corporation Tuesday called on all subscribers for post office boxes to cover their annual subscription fees during January. The corporation warned that those who fail to cover their subscription by the end of January will pay fine amounting to 50 per cent of the subscription fees. Those who fail to cover their subscription fees during the first three months, the subscription will be cancelled. (Petra)

CHARITY BAZAAR: A three-day charity bazaar was opened at the Farah Rehabilitation Centre under the slogan "the handicapped constitute a constructive power with a role in comprehensive development." The bazaar, which was opened by Dr. Aref Bataineh, director of King Hussein Medical Centre, displays handicrafts such as embroidery and knitwear by the handicapped patients at the centre. The proceeds of the bazaar are to benefit the handicapped patients who are provided for by the centre. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ★ An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ The youths art exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Contemporary Islamic fine arts exhibition by Abbas Nabha at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Yarmouk University.
- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Arij Al Hamed and Ibrahim Nabehneh at the University of Jordan.
- ★ An exhibition on public education at the Soviet Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ A play entitled Christmas Carols at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.
- ★ A play entitled House Guest at Amman Plaza Hotel — 9:30 p.m.

The British Council

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF HRH PRINCE RA'AD BIN ZEID

THE BRITISH COUNCIL Presents

A CHRISTMAS CAROL at the Royal Cultural Centre 18.19.20 December 7.30 p.m.

Tickets JD 2 from the Royal Cultural Centre and the British Council

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Ministry of Public Works and Housing

Government Tenders Directorate Invitation for Tender No. 51/89/Central

The Water Authority of the Ministry of Water and Irrigation issues Addendum No. 1 to Tender No. 51/89/Central (request for proposals for upgrading and expansion of As Samra Waste Stabilisation Pond System).

ADDENDUM NO. 1 The qualification of the Jordanian engineering consultant outlined in lines 10, 11, 12 and 13 of page 1 of the RFP is changed to read as in para 1 and 2 below:

1. "The qualifications of the Jordanian consultant shall include being listed as grade (company) in the fields of water and sewerage, electrical, mechanical, roads and structural projects by the Jordanian Engineers Association. If a Jordanian consulting company lacks any of these specialisations, it can form a joint venture with another listed Jordanian consulting company to cover all required specialisations."
2. The delivery date of the proposals outlined in page 3 of the RFP is postponed to not later than 13:30 Wednesday, Feb. 7, 1990.
3. Interested Jordanian consultants are requested to advise their U.S. associates of this addendum.

Director/Government Tenders Directorate
Chairman of the Central Tenders Committee
Eng. Salem Qudah

Dr. Hubert Dobers, of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation, stressed that in West Germany, such symposiums would be able to influence the formation of public opinion and of policy makers.

Although the two organisers are both non-governmental agencies, Dobers stressed that "any effort of this kind can develop its greatest possible effect only when those in charge of policy-making and politics are ready to listen and to take into account the expertise and the findings of those who have experience and of those who have knowledge."

Several presentations stood out

in their applicability to all of the Middle East whereas others referred to very specific conditions.

A presentation made by Moroccan delegate Dr. Aicha Belarbi, forwarded that adults in their socialisation of children inculcate given feminine and masculine roles. She said that mothers transmit the norms of a social order which forms the concept of what a man and a woman "should be."

Dr. Ali Othman of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund, commenting on the presentation by Dr. Belarbi said that "men and women need liberating in our society. A mutual respect needs to exist where one sees the other gender as an individual not a male or a female."

Othman also pointed out that the existing structures in our society and its institutions may very well have played a significant role in bringing about certain social concepts of male and female roles.

In addition to giving a clear picture of the Israeli repression of Arabs in the occupied territories, Dr. Suad Dajani, from the Centre for Hebrew Studies, in her presentation of a study entitled "the changing conditions of the Palestinian family during the intifada," suggested that the intifada is acting as a liberating force for the Palestinian community.

In her study she showed that previously accepted social atti-

tudes, towards women and the elderly were changing fast. She said that the community in the territories learned to mobilise their human resources against a common enemy and thus, through an enforced unity, room for new values had been made.

Several male participants had clearly promoted the importance of the woman's role at home, and one went as far as to say that women only work "to be seen by men, and earn money to buy more clothes and make up." Islamic tenants were used in justifying women's place at home.

In a very vocal response to those that espouse such social thoughts, Dr. Othman said "from the perspective of Islam all people irrespective of gender, race and culture come with the same capacities to grow into intelligent adults. In this sense Islam does not differentiate between the male and female. Both are required to use the mind given to them by God to seek knowledge."

"When Islam speaks of distinctions," Othman said, "it speaks of a division of labour. Both parents are responsible for a child's education and a family, from the perspective of Islam, is a family of individuals who are believers through their own efforts."

Othman also pointed out that "in Islam a person, whether male or female, is obedient only to God."

Jordan Times

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Bolstering democracy

HIS Majesty King Hussein's reaffirmation of the commitment of the Kingdom to democracy in a speech delivered on the occasion of the graduation of two groups of army commanders from the Royal War College and the Royal Command and Staff Academy Monday came at the right time and in the wake of the Yarmouk University incident last week. It will be recalled that one of the negative aspects of the Yarmouk incident is its implications on the process of democratisation in the country. The words of King Hussein were most apt therefore when he reminded the people of Jordan that the promotion and protection of democracy, which the country has chosen, must emanate first and foremost from the conscience and behaviour of the people of Jordan, both individually and collectively. In other words, in order for democracy to develop, progress and be consolidated, it must be deeprooted in the hearts and minds of the men and women of Jordan. Without nurturing democracy within ourselves, there is no way that democracy as a policy and style of government would have a chance to survive the trials and tribulations to which it will surely be subjected.

In this context there is no way that the people could acquire the required democratic behaviour and practice unless school curricula in Jordan incorporate civic courses at the earliest possible time in their educational process. Given the fact that the people of Jordan have little democratic traditions and training, there is no way that they can acquire the democratic behaviour and the degree of tolerance for the opposing view if they are not inculcated within the educational process as early as possible. Thus, through early education and training, the people of Jordan would obtain the sense of responsibility and commitment to the Constitution and laws of the country as well as democratic traditions. In this vein, one wonders if our students ever learn anything about their Constitution and other basic laws in Jordan in order for them to comprehend and appreciate their contents.

It is therefore the fervent hope and aspiration of the people of Jordan that the educational authorities in the Kingdom will henceforth introduce courses within the elementary and secondary educational curricula and thus to begin the process of educating the Jordanians in the proper style of democracy. Such a step would also be in harmony and in furtherance of His Majesty King Hussein's admonition that without responsibility and appropriate democratically-oriented personality, democracy in Jordan will falter and suffer setbacks. The clashes between students at Yarmouk University last week highlight most of all that even our educated people are not prepared intellectually and philosophically to the elementary practice of democracy. It is therefore most imperative that the process of teaching and learning about democracy and the meaning and implications of citizenship begin soonest.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday dwelt on King Hussein's address at the graduation of army officers in which he emphasised the meaning of democratic life within the framework of the constitution and the Kingdom's laws and rules. The paper stressed that the King chose to confirm the link between the national infrastructure and unity and the parliamentary and democratic life, pointing out that responsibility for the country's democracy lies with all the citizens, particularly with the legislative and executive authorities in the country. The paper pointed out that Jordan has won credibility world-wide due to its moderate policies, its dedication to serve the cause of peace and its true commitment to Arab causes. The King has called for the enhancement of this credibility by reflecting Jordan's democracy-oriented image to the outside world and through manifesting the Jordanian people's commitment to the true sense of democracy and freedom, the paper added. The King's speech, the paper pointed out, reflected the King's concern as a leader to direct his people along the path to democratic and parliamentary life in which all intellectuals, politicians, journalists and educationists should take part.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Tuesday urges Iraq and Syria to mend fences and try to reach common ground for reconciliation specially as the two countries confront common challenges. Mahmoud Rimawi points to the fact that both countries stand to lose as a result of their continued differences over ideological matters although they both support common principles and goals. The writer refers to Turkey's recent decision to cut off the Euphrates River water from the two countries because it needs the water to fill its reservoirs behind its newly built dams on the same river; and notes that vast agricultural lands in both Syria and Iraq are threatened with untold damage and loss as a result of this Turkish action. The writer also refers to Syria's refusal to allow Iraq to carry its crude oil through pipelines running through Syrian territory to the Mediterranean sea, thus forcing Iraq to opt for another network of pipelines going through Turkish territory, and causing losses for the two countries. The writer cites the two examples just to show the amount of benefits which the two Arab countries stand to gain if they opt for cooperation instead of confrontation and continued hostility. He says that the common interests and the national goals should be sufficient for the two countries to join forces and pool their resources for their mutual benefit.

Al Dustour Arabic daily newspaper discussed King Hussein's address at a ceremony for the graduation of senior army officers from the Royal War College. The King's address presented a clear-cut pledge for pursuing the course of democracy and parliamentary life within the context of the constitution and the country's set of laws and rules, the paper noted. It said King Hussein has emphasised the need for all citizens to display a spirit of responsibility and to remain committed towards serving the national goals.

Badran outlines government programme

The following is the full text of Prime Minister Mudar Badran's government policy-statement as presented to the Lower House of Parliament Tuesday seeking a vote of confidence. Translation from Arabic to English was made by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

Excellency Speaker
Excellencies Deputies,

IN MY NAME and in the name of my colleagues, the ministers of the government I was entrusted by His Majesty King Hussein, the exalted, to form, I salute your council and congratulate everyone of you for gaining the confidence of the people in honest and free elections, and I present the ministerial statement of my government beseeching Almighty to lead our steps in our performance to serve our dear Jordan in its democratic march to freedom and its commitment to face the challenge as imposed by the new phase.

It honours me and my government to present to His Majesty the King our warmest thanks and most sincere allegiance for the confidence bestowed by His Majesty upon us, wishing His Majesty all success in his endeavour, and requesting Almighty to grant us the ability to shoulder the burden with which we have been entrusted.

As it presents its ministerial statement, my government asserts its total concern over perpetual cooperation with your council: this cooperation emanates from the government's deep sense of responsibility imposed by the new stage requiring consultation, views exchange, and positive interaction between the executive and the legislative authorities to serve the interests of the Jordanian people, who, through their awareness, manifested great ability in facing dangers and drew the path of solid national unity and willingly took over the historical responsibility.

The government affirms that its commitment to the directives of His Majesty the King as contained in the letter and speech from the throne, together with its careful reading of your respected council's reply to it; its awareness of the realities and capabilities, and its understanding of the ideological, political, social, cultural and economic dimensions of the new phase, constitute the general framework of this statement we are presenting to your respected council.

The government has strived towards this end with an impartial and objective spirit, and realistic outlook, hoping that this statement will represent a sincere response to the aforesaid, and that it will be considered as a programme for a forthcoming stage and as a governmental work method within the democratic trend of the movement of the Jordanian society in an atmosphere of tolerance, popular participation, constructive dialogue, and deep sense of responsibility.

Upon His Majesty's directives, the government had announced in your council the availability of the political will to abolish martial law and to liquidate all remaining effects of the said law by taking steps to return suspended passports to their owners, securing the freedom of work, travel and movement for all citizens, releasing political prisoners, restoring the elected bodies and abolishing a previous order to dissolve the Jordan Writers Association. As study of the legal and economic effects of that law are being considered at the present, in a sound legal way, ensuring the stability of rights and the proper course of work, I announce from this council that martial law is now considered frozen except those parts of it relevant to the liquidation of the traces of martial law, and until such laws were constitutionally abolished as early as possible.

The government, while taking such measures, reaffirms its total keenness towards the honouring of the constitution and its commitment to implement it in word and spirit. The government considers that constitutional advancement is portrayed by the maturing of public opinion, the commitment of the citizen to defend the basic human rights in freedom, education and work, the citizen's concern over the securing of his country, accepting the views of others with freedom and tolerance. The constitutional advancement is also portrayed by the citizen's rejection of corruption and by his standing up to any attempt to transgress over the freedom of others, and the people's right to express their opinion by various means.

It also considers that consultation and democracy make the unique form of the salient features of the citizen's interaction with his civic experiment based on the freedom, integrity of man and equality. He who commits himself to such basics must never fear expressing his opinion and

choice.

The government is determined to implant such concepts throughout the facets of life, and it sees that freedom and authority are not contradictory but rather integral. Without order there is no freedom. Freedom of authority is like life for a body. This determination will extend to reach public freedoms such as equality before the law, equal opportunities in holding public office, the right of the citizen to enjoy the freedom of belief, security, education, employment, housing, movement, the right to set up societies and organisations, to freely express opinion in the press, and not to be prosecuted because of his ideology. Whenever this is available to the citizen, his innovative energy will open up and he will become a defender of human rights everywhere within the team spirit of work and sacrifice.

In compliance with His Majesty's directives for the preparation of a national charter stemming from the provisions of the constitution and the constants of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the government will take whatever measures to execute this sublime mission in cooperation with your council.

The government appreciates the role of the armed forces in the defence of the country, hence it will strive to reinforce them by providing them with support, training and advanced weapons and equipment, in order to enable them to perform their sacred task in defending the longest line of confrontation with the Zionist enemy. The grand role of the armed forces will continue to defend our country and nation against the dangers of the racist, Zionist settlement invasion.

The government will continue to provide safety and security to the citizenry. From this concept it will reinforce the organs of public security to enable them to undertake the responsibility and to ensure the supremacy of the law and order, and to make sure that security men will be defenders of the democratic experiment.

Independence of the judiciary

The government asserts its keenness towards the independence of the judiciary, its immunity and supreme standing.

In conformity with the political will to abolish martial law with the consequent abolishing of emergency courts, the government is determined to establish the rules of reference to the judiciary alone and to take the required steps to ensure speedy and competitive performance.

The government will set up a constitutional court and will amend legislation to speed up this process. It will also annul all legal texts which provide immunity to administrative orders against contest with the judiciary.

In the field of education, the government will implement the educational development plan to improve the standard of learning and to combine it with the needs of society. This plan includes the laying down of fresh curriculum for secondary education, the development of textbooks and the rehabilitation of teachers.

In the field of culture, the government will patronise the movements of art and intellect, will back the process of publication, translation and distribution. It will encourage writing, will continue to offer state awards, and will encourage the theatre and will patronise talents.

In the field of youth, the government will strive to care for the youth and their talents and will encourage their interaction with other positive experiments on the Arab and Muslim levels. The government will render special attention to releasing the energies of sports federations, and to setting up youth organisations with specific goals.

The government will back youth clubs, youth centres and will improve the standing of sports establishments. The government will consider the question of voluntary youth work camps.

In the field of Awqaf and preachers, the government intends to make a qualitative leap in the preparation and rehabilitation of preachers.

The government will strive to develop the Zakat fund and to generalise it and later to enable it to contribute to productive projects employing needy people.

The government is striving to revise the dimensions of the media experiment in order to make it capable of reflecting the grassroot changes now being witnessed by the Jordanian society. The government strives to establish the role of the media in projecting Jordan's civil march. In its ideological, cultural, educational and artistic dimensions and within the context of openness,

freedom of expression and dialogue.

The government asserts the cultural role of the media to bolster the educational process and to support the steadfastness of our people in Palestine, who, through their blessed uprising are expressing the spirit of the Arab-Islamic nation standing firm in the face of the Zionist invasion.

The role of the media will be concomitant to the Jordanian experiment and it will be the means of deep expression of its dimensions most earnestly, freely and responsibly.

The government will revise the law of the press and publication and will regulate the information process in order to create the society of production rather than that of consumption and luxury. A new method will be developed to ensure the presentation of useful material that conforms with the dogma of the nation, its manners and its Arab-Islamic values.

The government will concentrate on an integrated programme for administrative development aimed at facilitating official procedures, rehabilitating and training civil servants, preserving public funds, eliminating lax administration and effectively curbing financial corruption. The government will present to your council a special legislation to combat economic crime and to eliminate it from our society. Another legislation regulating the work of commission dealers will be presented by the government.

The government will cooperate with your council to uncover the various facades of financial corruption, and will not tolerate corruption or laxation.

In an attempt to protect public funds and the society, the government will present legislation to your council obliging all those holding high political and administrative positions to present to a certain authority, to be named by the law, a comprehensive and documented report on all their possessions, and those of their spouse and sons including real estate and liquid property, together with any change in the status of these possessions during their term in office.

In the services sector, the government will secure the needs of the citizen from basic services.

In the field of health, the government will strive to expand its services to control medicine prices, to set up a parallel market to provide the basic medicines, will expand the umbrella of health insurance gradually by building more hospitals and setting up more clinics.

The government will focus on the protection of the environment and will enact the required legislation to serve this end.

In the social security field, the government will lay down a comprehensive policy to deal with unemployment by organising the labour market, increasing capital expenditure, encouraging private investment, providing training and funds for small projects.

The government will protect the rights of the working class, will support the cooperative movement, will encourage unions, render care for the handicapped and the disabled through direct support and social security. The government will support and encourage voluntary work organisations and societies.

In the field of agriculture, the government will endeavour to organise agricultural production, to reduce dependence on agricultural imports, to encourage the production of local crops and to focus on the production of strategic commodities like wheat, forage and red meat.

The government will continue to unify the sources of agricultural loans, being a part of the basic solution of farmers' credits, and through rescheduling of loans, especially those of small farmers. Within its efforts to reform agricultural institutions, the government will review its role in order to avoid duality, to unify development efforts, to save expenses, and agricultural legislation will be revised to cope with the changes and production; and to facilitate the utilisation of government land in national investment projects and to encourage setting up productive cooperatives. The government will also rectify the marketing operation, and the production system in order to block exploitation and monopoly and subsequent harm done to the farmer and consumer alike, and to facilitate the marketing of agricultural products and to open new markets.

In order to embody public participation and development, the government will set up a general farmers federation to include specialised quality federations. The government will also develop cultural patterns, so as to prepare graduates from agricultural schools to qualify for the requisites of modern farming. The government will strive to provide the needs of production, price controls, secure forage, to provide veterinary services and to

implement a national afforestation programme. The government also asserts its keenness to develop the southern and eastern provinces and the Jordanian badia by setting up productive agricultural projects in them due to their economic and social feasibility.

In the field of supplies, the government will continue to secure a variety of food items, control exploitation and monopoly in all their aspects. It will also impose tight control on the prices of basic food items, and make sure of the quality of all foodstuffs and that they match standards and specifications.

The government also stresses its intention to reinforce the role of the parallel markets in order to secure every family within its capability to face the new economic state. It will encourage the creation of consumer protection societies.

In the field of water, the government will render ultimate attention to our water resources by laying down a comprehensive strategy for the utilisation of underground water, and to improve the exploitation of surface waters by erecting dams.

In the field of transport and communication, the government will continue to organise land transport operations, will pursue the implementation of bilateral and multilateral agreements. The government will take the necessary measures to revise the structure of this sector in order to rectify the status of some of its establishments. The government will focus on our national carrier, the Royal Jordanian, and will execute the financial and administrative development project of the telecommunications project.

In the field of public works and housing, the government will strive to complete the road network which has already been started in Jordan.

The government will expand rural and agricultural roads to cope with the needs of local societies. The government will review the housing and urban development policy in order to secure the proper housing for workers and civil servants.

In the field of local administration and regional development, the government will render support to municipal and rural councils and will review all respective legislation, and will implement administrative decentralisation and will continue to supply rural areas and the badia with water, electricity and other services.

In the field of energy and mineral resources, the government will continue to explore for oil and gas after the discovery of promising gas quantities in Al Rishbeh, and the government will consider the best methods to exploit this gas in the generation of power and in petrochemical industries in particular.

The government will render special attention to other energy alternatives such as the utilisation of shale oil, solar energy and wind energy.

The government will render special attention to the increase of our mineral exports mainly phosphates, potash, fertilisers and cement.

In the field of tourism and antiquities, the government will encourage internal and external tourism by effecting changes in the touristic method through cooperation with the private sector. It will also render care to all ancient, religious and natural sites with the cooperation of international organisations.

Economy

You have noticed that during the past five years, there was recession in growth rate and recession in the volume of investment given the fact that the population growth continued at a high rate as a result of which the standard of living and the per capita income decreased. During that period, the government resorted to larger spending which resulted in the accumulation of deficit in the general budget, and depleted the government foreign currency reserves, and an increase in the volume of debt.

The previous government, since its inception, strived to contain the financial crisis and to treat its effects by embarking on an economic rectification programme through the rescheduling of some of the foreign loans, and intensifying efforts to increase Arab support. This programme is an integrated national effort for the coming years, demanding the consolidation of all efforts. The government will develop this programme to become a comprehensive national programme that will achieve more investment opportunities, will encourage export, and provide work opportunities, and will improve the standard of living of the citizen.

The government would like to present to your council the basic foundation of this programme on the hope that its implementation will contribute to surmounting

the economic crisis. These foundations are:

1. Increasing national savings and curbing consumption, especially the consumption of luxury items.
2. Increasing investment rates and development of agriculture with special attention to small and medium projects undertaken by the private sector.
3. Striving to achieve internal and external balance by reducing deficit in the general budget, and by bolstering the balance of payments.
4. Achieving social security through balanced distribution of the burden of the comprehensive national programme of economic reform.

The government will adopt several financial and monetary policies alongside other economic policies, that are capable of achieving these foundations and goals.

In the field of financial policy, the comprehensive national reform programme is based on the increase of revenues, control of government expenditure, reduction in the general budget.

In the field of local revenues, the government will adopt the following bases:

1. To spread the tax burden in a just manner among all categories of the society.
2. To revise the structure of the tax system by relying on direct taxes and indirect taxes on commodities and services with less dependence on customs revenue.
3. Collection of fare fees for services offered by the government and its institutions taking into consideration the alleviation of the burden of such fees from the poor and the low income categories.
4. To continue to provide tax encouragement for investment and export operations.

The government believes that the income from taxes in accordance with current laws is sufficient to the needs of the treasury without any increases or basic additions in taxes.

As far as general expenses are concerned, the government's policy aims at checking the rise in these expenses, and to steer them on the following foundations:

1. To maintain the level of basic services.
2. To maintain an appropriate level of capital expenditure and to continue to implement new projects in the field of educational development, health, water and phosphate production.
3. To review the conditions of independent governmental corporations, to ensure better administration and better competence.
4. To continue to subsidise food items.

As regards internal and external public debt, the government will adopt the following policies:

1. Limit governmental borrowing, both internal and external, within the limitations of the general budget law.
2. The government commitment to valid laws in its internal borrowing. And the government will strive to curb resorting to the banking establishments to finance its activities and expenses.
3. Obtaining foreign loans should fall within the national comprehensive programme for economic reform.
4. To convert the largest portion of commercial loans to long range loans and from international establishments under easy terms.
5. Considering the possibility of issuing the general public debt law.
6. To ease the burden of foreign debt by rescheduling foreign debts maturing in 1991 and 1992.

As regards the monetary policy and the balance of payments, the government will adopt the following policies:

1. To reinforce the independence of the Central Bank in order to secure its role in preserving monetary stability in order to secure the stability of the value of the dinar and to build up the national reserve of foreign currency. The government will also bolster the role of the Central Bank in overseeing financial and banking establishment.
2. To achieve external balancing and to improve the balance of payments through the aforesaid financial and monetary policy, and through the encouragement of investment and export by activating the role of the private sector within the following policies:

- a- To reinforce the role of the private sector and its establishments so as to become one of the basic foundations of the national comprehensive programme for economic reform, and the adjustment of the legislation which steer the performance of this sector.
- b- To proceed with the operation of institutional development so as to support investment and export by setting up a corporation to finance exports and another corporation to secure it, and to develop one of the existing corporations to undertake the opera-

tion of marketing investment and Jordanian exports.

c- Defining high calibre industries in order to improve them. d- To render special attention to sectors with high growth capabilities, and to the small projects with high revenue as regards labour and the ability to export.

Foreign policy

The problem of Palestine is a basic and fateful problem to Jordan, hence the government is obliged to stand by the people of Palestine, to back their national rights, and their just struggle under the leadership of the PLO, their legitimate and sole representative.

The government's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank, came as a response to a request by the Palestinian leadership and people, and in compliance with the general Arab desire to project the Palestinian national identity.

The decision has bolstered the Palestinian popular uprising with overflowing political support, and restored the problem to its original position of colonised people craving for independence over their national soil.

The government affirms that there is nothing in this decision that might weaken in any way the historic and national bond between Jordan and Palestine which the Hashemites shouldered through their long history. Therefore, the government will proceed with its everlasting commitment to stand by the Arab people of Palestine in their just struggle and in backing their blessed uprising, and to offer further help through various means including care for martyrs' families, marketing of products, backing the economy and organising the freedom of movement in Jordan.

The government will also consider the human and personal effects entailed by the decision of disengagement, and will take measures to ease the agony and to remove sufferings without touching the core of this decision.

The government will continue to honour Jordan's obligations towards Jerusalem, the Aqsa Mosque, the Ibrahim Mosque, the sharia courts in the occupied West Bank, the waqf of Jerusalem and all relevant issues such as schools and colleges.

The government will continue to back the steadfastness through the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

The government will continue with all interest to rehabilitate the Aqsa Mosque, the Dome of the Rock and other installations existing in the Al Haram Al Shareef.

The government will continue to stand by sister Iraq in its drive to achieve peace, to secure its legitimate rights over its territory and waters, to put an end to attempts of intervention in its affairs, and to ensure the security of the countries of the region and their stability on the basis of good neighbourliness and mutual respect.

The government stands in favour of intensifying efforts to convert the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran into a just and durable peace, and never let it develop into a state of no-war no-peace.

The government will pursue international efforts to bring closer the views of Iraq and Iran in order to resume the direct peace negotiations between the two parties according to the provisions of the ceasefire agreement leading to the implementation of Security Council Resolution 598.

The government appeals to the Iranian leadership to respond to the humanitarian need of prisoners exchange and return to their families.

As regards the Lebanese crisis, the government will work together with the sister Arab countries to help Lebanon out of its crisis. The government will continue to support the efforts of the higher Arab tripartite committee, and the new Lebanese leadership to proceed to implement the Taif agreement.

The government will direct its effort to buttress the march of the Arab Cooperation Council in all facets. In order to make this council a pioneering national experiment and an advanced version of the Arab national performance that aims at advancing it to the level of a successful and significant example in socio-economic development on unitary bases at a time when economic groupings are playing a leading role on the international arena. The government looks forward to see the ACC contribute with its two peers, the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union, in enriching the joint national effort.

Our action through the ACC will be directed to bolster the Arab joint action in its wider sphere, the context of the Arab League, in order to improve the Arab League performance to be able to cope with

(Continued on page 5)

How ancient rites were 'converted'

After the infant Jesus, the most important figure of Christmas is probably Santa Claus or Father Christmas, a character based on St. Nicholas, the fourth-century Bishop of Myra in Asia Minor. Although little is known about his life and work, St. Nicholas became the patron saint of the first Russians to be converted to Christianity. He also became the protector of mariners, farmers and shepherds. The belief still persists that on his feast day, marauding wolves will spare the lambs and chickens.

In many European countries the Christmas celebrations start on St. Nicholas's Day, Dec. 6. Children leave their shoes out on the window sill before going to bed and wake up the following morning to find them filled with sweets.

This custom derives from the legend that Bishop Nicholas used to place gifts of food, clothing and money outside the homes of the poor.

Christmas celebrations have existed for much longer than the Christian festival itself. In the distant past, when man was totally dependent on weather conditions for producing food, seasonal changes were a great influence. Festivities were held on December 22, the time of the winter solstice (when the sun was furthest from the earth), to celebrate the sun's gradual return.

In ancient Rome, Saturnalia, the festival of fire and light, was held from Dec. 17 to the New Year. Saturn was the God of the harvest. Houses were decorated, presents were exchanged, servants would exchange place with their masters, and a pseudo-King was elected to take charge of the proceedings.

The Scandinavians celebrated with the festival of Yule. The returning sun was marked by heavy eating, the decorating of houses, and various ceremonies, including the burning of a specially decorated Yule log.

The actual date of the Nativity has never been decided, and as late as the fifth century the feast was being held on Dec. 25, Jan. 6 and March 25. Some experts claim the correct date is April 19; others that it is May 20.

One thing is certain. Christ was not born on Dec. 25. Shepherds would never have lain out in the fields during the winter solstice, when the weather in Palestine is usually very cold. It is far more likely that the Three Wise Men followed the Star of Bethlehem in late March, when the skies would have been cloudless. The shepherds would then be awake at night to take care of the newborn lambs.

The Christian leaders probably thought that they could never stop the ancient pagan rituals, and that the answer was to combine them with a Christian celebration. Lions features

IN OPENING UP to the rest of the world, northwest China, because of its geographical location, has thrived mainly westward, establishing economic and trade ties with the Soviet Union and countries in what is known as the "Islamic Economic Sphere." Like their ancestors, people in northwest China are taking the Silk Road for prosperity.

Northwest China consists of Shaanxi, Qinghai, Gansu, Xinjiang, Ningxia and part of Inner Mongolia. Their combined area accounts for one third of the country's total and is inhabited by 80 million people, many of them Muslims. Traditionally, this area of China's in the heart of Asia was linked with the rest of the world by the Silk Road, which starts from Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi, and ends in the Middle East and Asia Minor.

The Silk Road later declined as a result of the rapid development of marine transportation. Restricted by its unfavorable geographical location and poor transport facilities, northwest China had until recently remained largely cut off from the rest of the world. Centuries of isolation have left the vast region backward economically.

The Chinese government's open policy, implemented since 1979, is turning the region again into one of China's gateways to the rest of the world.

One result of the opening is a trade boom along the region's border with the Soviet Union, Mongolia and Pakistan. The volume of border trade, according to the State Statistical Bureau, reached \$653 million in 1988, 2.37 times that in 1987.

Such trade is especially brisk in Xinjiang, which shares a 3,000 kilometre long border with the Soviet Union, Mongolia and Pakistan. The region now trades with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kirghizia and Tajikistan in Soviet

Reviving the silk road

Northwest China opens to the outside world by thrusting westward along the ancient Silk Road

By Wu Guoqing and Wang Qinghua

development Corporation and Saudi Arabia's Al-Baraka Investment & Development Corporation. The latter put in 60 per cent of the \$80 million investment. The joint venture has a term of 50 years.

More foreign-financed enterprises are expected to be built in northwest China. Ningxia plans to use a \$15-million Kuwaiti government loan to set up a ferroalloy factory. It is also negotiating with Egyptian firms on jointly producing Muslim beverages and garments.

Last July, Xinjiang and Kazakhstan of the Soviet Union reached agreement on an economic and technological cooperation plan containing more than 70 projects. They involve oil exploitation and earthquake research, among other fields.

Enterprises in northwest China are also going abroad. Xinjiang, for example, will set up two facilities in the Soviet Union to manufacture thermos flasks.

But the most active are construction and labor service companies. Currently about 10,000 northwest China workers work in Islamic countries, including Egypt, Kuwait, Iraq, Libya, the United Arab Emirates and the Arab Yemen Republic. Projects they have contracted include government offices, residential housing, barracks and defence works. Gansu province alone has contracted \$100 million worth of projects abroad.

Cultural exchanges have also expanded. Every year thousands of northwest China Muslims go on pilgrimage to Mecca. Meanwhile, an increasing number of people from Islamic countries visit northwest China. Last year, Northwest China received 400,000 foreign visitors.

To facilitate a further expansion of economic and cultural relations with the outside world, northwest China is vigorously improving its transport facilities. A railway is being built from Urumqi capital of Xinjiang to the Altay Pass on the Sino-Soviet border, where the railway will be connected with a Soviet railroad. When completed in October

central Asia. The volume of Xinjiang's border trade with the Soviet Union totalled \$111 million in 1988, a six-fold increase over 1987.

Five border towns in Xinjiang currently do business with the Soviet Union, Mongolia and Pakistan. At Horgos and Turgart on the Sino-Soviet border, trucks carry Soviet rolled steel, cement, chemical fertilizers, automobiles and refrigerators to Xinjiang, while others ship Chinese cotton cloth, woolen blankets, thermos bottles, garments, fabrics and sweets in the opposite direction.

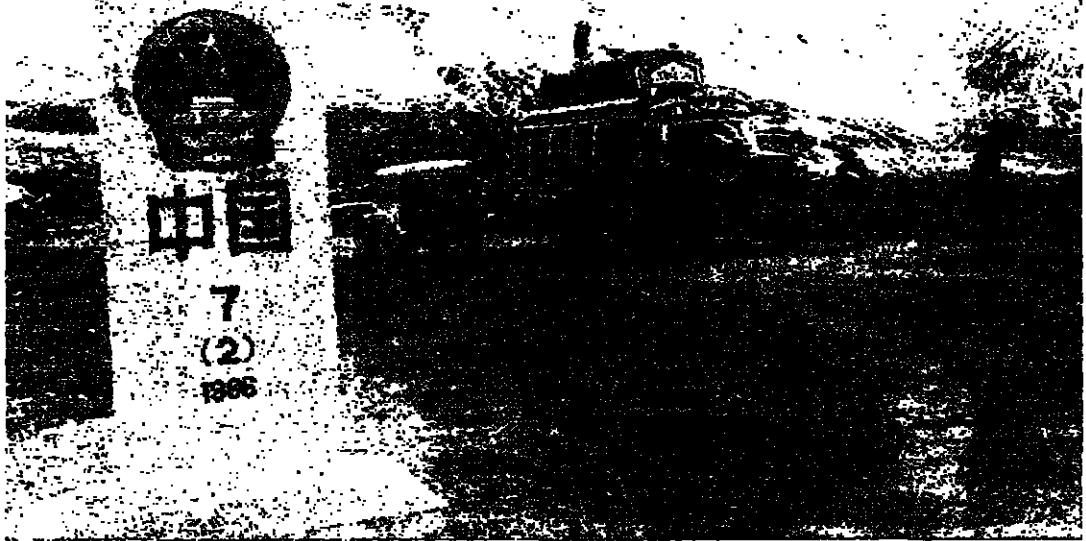
Northwest China's economic ties with the outside world are not limited to border trade. Xinjiang alone, for instance, has established trade ties with 50 countries and regions in the world. It attended the 54th International Fair held in Izmir, Turkey, in 1985 and sponsored an export commodity exhibition in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates, in December 1986. Ningxia has also had its products exhibited at many international fairs and export commodity exhibitions in the Middle East. Northwest China exports about \$900 million worth of products a year. In recent years it sells an increasing number of live sheep and growing amounts of vegetables, watermelon seeds and machinery to the Middle East.

Economic relations also include the establishment of joint ventures, the provision of labor services, and scientific and technological exchanges. About 120 enterprises financed entirely or partly by overseas firms have been set up so far in northwest China, involving a foreign investment of \$400 million.

One of these foreign-invested enterprises is the Islamic International Trust & Investment Corporation, a Sino-Saudi Arabian joint venture set up in 1988 in Yinchuan, capital of Ningxia. Its two partners are China's Ningxia Islamic International Trust & De-



Pakistani business people wait at a bus station in Kashgar city, Xinjiang, for their trip home



A Pakistani bus comes into Xinjiang from Kunjirap Pass

1990, it will be part of a new "Continental Bridge" linking Asia and Europe.

The Xinjiang Airline Company is enlarging its fleet of passenger aircraft. Its latest additions will be three TU-154 planes. A direct airline between Urumqi and Alma Ata in the Soviet Union will be open to service soon.

Signs show that a broader Silk Road is opening up in central Asia. It promises to benefit all countries and regions lined alongside its path.

Badran presents programme

(Continued from page 1)

his government would stand in favour of intensifying efforts to convert the ceasefire between Iraq and Iran into a just and durable peace, "and will never let it develop into a state of no-war no-peace."

He appealed to the Iranian leadership "to respond to the humanitarian need of prisoners' exchange and return to their families."

On the Lebanese crisis, Badran said that the government would continue to support the efforts of

the higher Arab tripartite committee and the new Lebanese leadership.

Badran said the government would continue to tighten Jordan's bilateral relations with all the Arab countries and to reinforce them "within the bonds of brotherhood that combine us together."

Badran said the government would also continue to develop Jordan's relations with other countries on the basis of mutual respect and interest within its commitment to the United Nations Charter.

Government programme

(Continued from page 4)

the demands of our time and to secure our Arab Nation's interests.

The government will continue to tighten Jordan's bilateral relations with all the Arab countries, and to reinforce them within the bonds of brotherhood that combine us together, and as a fulfilment of our commitment to the Arab League charter and the Arab summit resolutions. The government will strive, in particular, to increase perpetual cooperation with the neighbouring Arab countries, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Syria.

The government will continue to put its open communication and intervention with world countries and international organisations, of the right order to secure our national interests and to protect them.

The government will continue to bolster relations with the Islamic countries, through our active participation in the Islamic Conference Organisation, and by erecting the bridges of cooperation and friendship with the member states of the Non-Aligned Movement away from the policy of polarisation.

Within its commitment to the U.N. charter, the government will continue to develop Jordan's relations with the countries of the world on the basis of mutual respect and interest. The government will honour its bilateral agreements with other countries and comply with them to serve our common interest, and will work on develop these agreements and to revise them in coordination with the other parties

whenever the need calls.

The government feels the imperative need for contemplating the past with its burdens and the future with its challenges.

We have lived an acute economic crisis which we were able to surmount through the assistance of Almighty and with the determination of this country's inspired leadership and the consciousness of the people. Lively nations review themselves, evaluate their experiments, and search for the realities of their conditions with all objectivity, freedom and responsibility.

From this point, the government out of its keenness to benefit from past experience expresses its readiness to respond to the nation's representatives to provide full information for investigating the causes and defining the roles that resulted in the economic setback for the purpose of pinning responsibility and deriving lessons.

The government is committed to take the legal measures that are capable of suing those responsible, and referring them to the courts.

As the government is keen to confirm its cooperation with your respected council for laying down the foundations of democracy and consultation between the legislative and executive authorities, it presents its statement requesting your confidence.

We pray to God to lead our steps to serve our dear Jordan and to keep it a free and dear homeland, and to keep His Majesty as the leader of the march towards new horizons of progress and prosperity.

Drug addicts, rats and sewage to make way for urban park

By Emma Boyde Reuters

HONG KONG — Huddled in unbelievable squalor just feet beneath the roaring approach path to Hong Kong's international airport, inhabitants of Kowloon's notorious walled city cannot believe their luck.

The walled city, a slum so densely packed that multi-storey buildings lean precariously against one another, is soon to disappear.

Within two years the government will have rehoused and paid off all the estimated 30,000 in-

habitants, razed the tenements and the walled city — where police warn tourists and Hong Kong's overseas residents never to venture alone — will pass into history.

Officials say its dark, stinking alleyways will make way for a green, tree-lined urban park.

Property analysts question the decision to turn the walled city into a park when building land in Hong Kong is at a premium.

But one said it was the only way China and Britain could resolve a protracted historical dispute over the area dating back

nearly a century.

When Britain expanded its control of the Kowloon peninsula under the 1898 convention of Peking, it agreed that Peking should retain control over the walled city, then a Chinese garrison, as long as it presented no threat to Hong Kong.

London said that condition was breached within a year when the garrison became involved in an anti-British uprising and the Chinese troops were evicted.

Peking never recognised this unilateral act and protested from time to time over British attempts

to govern the walled city. The site became an embarrassment with neither side showing much interest in it. Left alone, it became a virtual no-go area for police where opium and gambling dens and seedy brothels flourished.

As late as 1963, Peking formally protested on behalf of residents when Hong Kong first proposed clearing the walled city, by then walled only in name. The crumbling ramparts went during world war two when Japanese occupation troops pulled them down and used the rubble to expand the nearby airport runway.

Only the signing of the 1984 joint declaration, under which Britain agreed to hand back Hong Kong to Chinese rule, cleared the way for resolving the issue.

Three years later the government announced its decision to turn the walled city into a park, paying compensation to the residents and rehousing them in modern apartments if they wished.

"I never knew what they were deciding for the walled city, in fact I never expected it would be demolished so soon, we were

rather shocked in 1987 when the government announced it was going to clear the city," said Chan Hip-Ping, vice chairman of the walled city residents' association, known in Cantonese as the Kaifong.

The Kaifong office leads off a dark-lit stairwell which, unlike the rest of the area, at least benefits from adequate refuse collection.

Elsewhere the alleys are just wide enough to walk in single file and rats run at shoulder-height along thin ledges.

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Israeli firms report troubles

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Koor, the struggling Israeli conglomerate, cannot meet its debts without help from creditors and the government, Koor's managing director Beni Gaon said Monday.

But Gaon told a parliamentary committee no one was considering liquidating the concern. "Liquidation does not serve the interest of the creditors or the government," he said.

Koor cannot pay its debts from internal sources and needs outside financial help, Gaon said. The firm, which owes more than \$1 billion, asked the finance ministry Sunday for a government guarantee in order to avoid default on its U.S. bonds.

Its written proposal included alternatives but the ministry is still studying the matter, a finance ministry spokesman said.

Banking sources said Koor had delayed publication of its third quarter financial statements because they would show that it had already defaulted on terms of the bonds.

Israel's powerful trade union association, the Histadrut, which

controls Koor, said Monday it would be ready to transfer part ownership to the government in return for funds.

The government earlier agreed to give Koor \$50 million in return for equity, but the deal was never completed because of government dissatisfaction with Koor's recovery plan.

Koor, Israel's largest industrial concern, employs about 25,000 people, more than 10 per cent of the country's industrial workforce.

Last month it presented a new five-year recovery plan which included a request to write off \$125 million of debts.

But Israeli banks, owed more than \$800 million, said the plan was inadequate and based on unrealistic estimates of the assets, such as its electronics firm Tadiran.

Banking sources said they

would accept a large debt write-off only in return for a much more stringent recovery plan.

Koor's foreign creditors also rejected the plan and refused to take part in the write-off. They urged the concern to seek government guarantees.

Tadiran, the mainly defence-orientated electronics subsidiary of Israel's ailing Koor industries, reported Tuesday a \$96 million loss in the first nine months of 1989 and said up to 1,000 workers may go.

The record loss, compared with a \$32 million loss in the same period last year, was a further blow to the trade union-owned Koor as it seeks credits, a government guarantee and debt write-offs to avoid liquidation, industry sources said.

Tadiran has a balance sheet value of \$800 million.

Koor's troubled recovery programme involves the sale of Tadiran to private enterprise for \$185 million, but the latest figures called that value into question, they said.

Tadiran said the losses were due mainly to once-off expenses in the communications division. The board of directors decided last Friday to change Tadiran's structure from centralised management to a holding company.

The change will include a severe trimming of the workforce. Tadiran spokesman Shalom Eitan said.

"Hundreds will be laid off, possibly up to a thousand," he said. Tadiran has already shed about 1,500 employees in the past 12 months, a decrease of 15 per cent in the firm's workforce.

Tadiran officials said the new structure would make it easier to sell parts of the company and to accept new partners.

Sources in Bank Hapoalim, Koor's largest creditor, said Tadiran's latest figures showed

that Koor's valuation of the subsidiary was too high, and it would fetch a far lower price.

Meanwhile, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Monday he expects potentially harmful layoffs in Israel's arms industry if budget cuts proposed by finance officials are approved by the cabinet.

Rabin, speaking to students at Tel Aviv University, said he would resist any cuts in the size of Israel's army.

His comments came following recommendations by officials at the finance ministry and Israel's central bank to cut the 1990-91 defence budget in light of recent reductions in military spending by Arab states.

Rabin noted past budget cuts resulted in dismissal of 10,000 out of a total 40,000 defence workers and added: "I think the budget for next year, if it is not changed from what I know, will lead to further layoffs... at defence industries."

Rabin said Israel could not reduce the size of its army and still deploy additional troops in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to suppress the two-year Palestinian uprising.

"We have an additional mission which takes up four per cent of the 10.3 billion shekels (\$5.15 billion)" of the defence budget, he said, referring to the uprising.

Senior finance officials have urged Finance Minister Shimon Peres to cut 300 million shekels (\$150 million) from the budget by reducing the mandatory draft from three years to 30 months and reducing the maximum age of reservists.

Israeli men serve up to 45 days a year in the reserves until age 54. About 370,000 reservists augment the regular army of 170,000, according to estimates by Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Iraq to get \$10m from Islamic bank

NICOSIA (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will finance \$10 million worth of Iraqi imports from member states, the Islamic news agency said Tuesday.

The agency said five agreements had been signed between the Jeddah-based IDB and Iraq but gave no date. The agreements raise total IDB financing for Iraq to \$13 million since last August, it said.

On the other hand, a Japanese foreign ministry spokesman Monday denied knowledge of an agreement to grant Iraq a \$3 billion credit line.

Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mahdi Saleh told Reuters in Baghdad the deal was made in a protocol on economic, commercial and financial cooperation signed in Tokyo Saturday.

The spokesman in the Middle East section of the Japanese foreign ministry said: "The Japanese government expressed readiness

to look into the possibility of granting more credit to Iraq. That's all I know of."

"I don't know why the Iraqi minister referred to a certain amount of credit," he added.

Saleh, who is also acting finance minister, visited Japan from Dec. 12-16 at the head of a delegation including representatives of the oil ministry and the central bank to discuss Iraqi debts.

He did not give figures for Iraqi debts to Japan, but by Japanese sources at about 10 per cent of Iraq's total foreign debt of about \$50 billion.

The Japanese foreign ministry official said Japan has agreed to accept oil to settle all outstanding Iraqi debts.

Saleh did not say how much oil would be involved in the deal, saying only that repayments in oil would be made over the next few years.

EC sets stage for common banking market

BRUSSELS (R) — European Community (EC) finance ministers have adopted a second new law setting the foundations for a common EC banking market after 1992.

At their final meeting of 1989, the ministers overcame West German objections Monday night and gave final approval to common solvency ratios for credit institutions such as banks.

This followed agreement last Friday on the so-called banking directive which permits banks authorised in one EC country to set-up shop across the 12-nation bloc.

"When both directives take effect in January, 1993, the banking regime in the Community will be more liberal than that in the U.S. or Japan," British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Major said in a statement.

The solvency ratios law was only agreed after a compromise with West Germany on the treatment of mortgage lending. Bonn wanted more favourable conditions for such loans, and will be granted this on new lending for mortgages until 1996, three years longer than earlier envisaged.

Other than the banking law, ministers made only minor progress on harmonising some tax rates and on steps toward monetary union. Both issues are central to achieving a giant barrier-free market in 1992.

The ministers had hoped to take the first concrete action toward the ambitious goal of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

They wanted to adopt documents which laid the groundwork for greater cooperation among central bankers on monetary policy and finance ministers in general economic policy.

But they postponed such action Monday after a surprise decision by the European Parliament in Strasbourg last week to withhold its opinion on stage one of EMU.

The parliament is holding out for some say in the process of monetary and economic unity. While its opinion is not legally vital, the minister were wary of being seen to overrule the EC's only directly elected body.

French Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy, who chaired the talks Monday, said there may yet have to be some changes to the texts to

satisfy the parliament.

On taxes, the EC executive commission wants the 12 member states to align their rates of value added tax (VAT), the rates of excise taxes on such items as alcohol and petrol, abolish limits on how much shoppers can buy in one country and take back to another, and cooperate in pursuing tax fraud.

The standard rates of VAT in the EC range from a low of 12 per cent in Luxembourg and Spain to a high of 25 per cent on some items in Ireland and 22 per cent in Denmark.

In 1987 the commission suggested narrowing this to a range of 14 to 20 per cent. But countries with high rates feared a big loss of tax revenue if they reduced rates, and Britain argued that market competition should set the rates, not the EC.

But after two years of fruitless bargaining, the 12 nations agreed Monday only that they would not widen the gap between their standard VAT rates over the next two years.

In another area, the Soviet Union and the EC Monday signed a trade and economic

cooperation pact which they hailed as opening the way to closer pan-European integration as the East-West divide crumbles.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said the 10-year agreement pointed the way to "the gradual formation of an integral economic complex on our continent."

"Its content brings the construction of the economic foundation for a common European house one step higher," he said in an address to EC foreign ministers before the two sides signed the document.

"Its nature reflects the dynamism of the process of renewal in Europe."

Earlier Shevardnadze said the integration of the Soviet Union into the world economy would not be easy.

"We are taking the first step, laying the first stone," he said.

French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, who chaired the ceremony, said the agreement raised hopes of a real improvement in economic and political relations between the 12-nation EC and Moscow.

Argentina announces dramatic liberalisation

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentina's new economy minister announced a dramatic economic liberalisation plan Monday that will free exchange rates and price controls in a drive to counter inflation.

Antonio Erman Gonzalez, in a speech after being sworn in by President Carlos Menem, said: "This programme aims to kill the tiger of hyperinflation, which is ready to pounce on us and has started to show its claws."

Gonzalez, the third economy minister of the 23-week-old peronist government, said the austral currency would float freely against the dollar and he scrapped all controls on prices and exchange deals.

He also scuttled an 11 per cent tax rise slapped on exports last week by his predecessor, businessman Nestor Rapanelli.

Gonzalez did not specify when the new measures would take effect, although the government has extended until Tuesday a bank and foreign exchange holiday in effect since Friday.

Gonzalez, a long-time Menem

side, took over after Rapanelli resigned Friday when markets reacted adversely to his Dec. 10 anti-inflation measures.

The 54-year-old accountant's main task will be to restore the markets' confidence in Menem's government after the austral lost a quarter of its value against the dollar, interest rates shot up and some food prices nearly tripled last week.

The new minister reaffirmed Menem's sweeping plans to privatise loss-making companies, deregulate key sectors of the economy and allow private enterprise a freer hand.

Speaking after Gonzalez, Menem reaffirmed his commitment to economic reform.

"We must fight together to make it work," he said. His programme cut monthly inflation to 5.6 per cent in October from a record 200 per cent in July.

But private economists estimate monthly inflation will surpass 20 per cent this month, more than 10 times the rate Rapanelli had forecast for December.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, December 19, 1989.		Deutschemark	372.0	375.7
Central Bank official rates		Swiss franc	415.3	419.5
		French franc	108.9	110.0
		Japanese yen (for 100)	446.8	451.3
		Dutch guilder	330.1	333.4
		Swiss franc	102.5	103.5
		Italian lire (for 100)	49.2	50.5
		Belgian franc (for 10)	177.6	179.4
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell		
Pound Sterling	643.0	649.0		
	1031.1	1041.4		

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.6045/55	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1605/15	Canadian dollar	
	1.7325/32	Deutschemark	
	1.9565/75	Dutch guilder	
	1.5536/46	Swiss franc	
	36.40/44	Belgian franc	
	5.9150/200	French franc	
	1291/1292	Italian lire	
	143.85/95	Japanese yen	
	6.2780/830	Swedish crowns	
	6.6840/90	Norwegian crowns	
	6.7360/410	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	411.25/411.75	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKET REPORTS

SYDNEY — Demand for banking and resources stocks shored up Australia's market after its weaker opening to end the day firmer. The All-Ordinaries finished 3.2 up at 1,632.4.

TOKYO — Market overheating jitters and concerns about a possible discount rate rise pushed Tokyo stocks down. The Nikkei closed 147.08 points lower at 38,439.10.

HONG KONG — Hong Kong stocks fell in reaction to Wall Street's 42-point dive. The Hang Seng retreated 20.79 points to 2,897.42.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed on a mixed note the Straits Times Industrial Index fell 7.84 points to finish at 1,452.18.

BOMBAY — Equities finished broadly higher for the second day on scattered speculative buying ahead of Christmas holidays next week.

FRANKFURT — Prices rose sharply in lively trade, buoyed by resurgent foreign demand as brokers moved money from the United States into German stocks. The Real-Time 30-Share Dax index gained 12.93 to 1,647.50.

ZURICH — Prices were generally higher despite Wall Street's dive. Position-squaring ahead of the new year also helped the market. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index added 6.7 to 1,112.5.

PARIS — Prices ended little changed after a dull session dominated by Wall Street's weakness. The CAC-40 Index lost 13.72 to 1,932.02.

LONDON — Shares were lower in line with Wall Street in relatively quiet trade. One trader said institutions were reluctant to open aggressive new positions ahead of the new year. At 1609 GMT the FTSE index was down 19.5 at 2,339.0.

NEW YORK — Heavy selling sent prices lower amid continuing fears of the effect of a real estate slump on banking and related industries. The Dow was off 26 at 2,671.



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VENOL

SINUM

TOWPUN

GLUTLE

ANSWER: "VENOL" - SINUM - TOWPUN - GLUTLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: "VENOL" - SINUM - TOWPUN - GLUTLE

Yesterday's Jumbles: BRAVE COLON DELUGE ADAGIO

Answer: This might help a gambler win a good deal of chips—A GOOD DEAL



England can claim some merit for Italy's successful soccer team

By Piero Valsecchi
The Associated Press

MILAN, Italy — England can claim some credit in the making of one of Europe's greatest soccer teams, A.C. Milan.

It was an English businessman based in this northern city, Alfred Edward, who founded Milan cricket and football club on Dec. 18, 1899. A number of English amateurs helped the team win three national titles between 1901 and 1907.

On its 90th anniversary Sunday, Milan took the Intercontinental Cup in Tokyo, beating National Medellin of Colombia to complete a sort of "grand slam" of soccer over the past two years.

After capturing the Italian title in 1988, Milan has had an impressive crescendo this year, win-

ning the European Cup of Champions, the Supercup and the Intercontinental Cup.

Italian television tycoon Silvio Berlusconi, who has invested tens of millions of dollars to sign costly stars and restore prestige to the Milanese team, declared that the winning streak can be extended through 1990.

"We must now shoot for the Italian title and another European cup," said Berlusconi, who took over the team in 1986. Milan is in position to pursue both targets, because it is a quarterfinalist in the cup of champions and placed within title range in the Italian major league standings.

The Milan team, third behind Juventus of Turin and Internazionale in the count of national titles, is Italy's most successful international team.

Its record includes three European Cups of Champions, two Intercontinental Cups, one European Supercup and two European Cupwinners Cups.

Milan, a long-time supporter of "open frontiers," was one of the first Italian teams to seek out non-Italian stars, in the Scandinavian and Latin American markets.

The famed Swedish trio of Gunnar Nordahl, Nils Liedholm and Gunnar Gren earned Milan and Italian title in 1951. Brazilians Jose Altafini and Dino Sani combined with Italian golden boy

Gianni Rivera in giving Milan its first European Cup in 1963 at the Wembley arena.

Past stars of the club include Uruguayan Juan Alberto Schiaffino, Swede Kurt Hamrin and Brazilians Amarildo and Angel Sormani.

Despite its English roots, the Italian team has not had good luck with such British players as Luther Blisset and Jimmy Greaves.

Milan's most recent achievements, following two bitter demolitions into the second division in 1979 and 1982, were led by a

Dutch trio and a bunch of Italian internationals.

Ronald Gullit, Marco van Basten, Frank Rijkaard, Franco Baresi, Roberto Donadoni and Carlo Ancelotti masterminded Milan's 4-0 triumph in the Champions Cup final against Steaua Bucharest last May 24.

Gullit — the captain of the Dutch national team whose transfer cost Milan the second highest fee in soccer history, exceeded only by Argentine Diego Maradona's transfer to Napoli — has been sidelined by a knee injury since then.

Despite his absence, Milan defeated Spain's Barcelona on a 2-1

aggregate score to win the European Supercup earlier this month, while a 1-0 victory over National Medellin of Colombia earned the Intercontinental Cup Sunday.

The winning goals against Barcelona and Medellin both were scored on free kicks by an unheralded Italian midfielder, Alberigo Evani.

"We have not had enough yet," said Milan manager Arrigo Sacchi, who led the team to the Italian title in his first season in the major league.

Sacchi gave Milan an offensive-minded play combined with a pressing tactic at midfield and a

well-timed off-side tactic in defense.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1989
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Poor aspects today limit your chances to accomplish all the things on your "must do" list. Shopping and errands will claim most of your time and attention.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You would be wise to entertain friends from out of town. Use all that energy you now have to fix up your residence. This is a good day to travel.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Invite the most influential man you know into your home. Try to do everything just as your loved one desires so there is harmony in your life.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Discuss all facets of your aims and ambitions with your household. Add up your liabilities and assets where other persons are concerned.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Cheerfully attend to those many tasks expected of you at home. Send a congratulatory note to a person you love who is having an anniversary.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Go straight to the top man for any directives in business or finances. Don't argue with a member of your household over a restriction.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get rid of unfinished business before you take on the new ones. Talking over issues with your loved one will make them easier to solve.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be patient at home even you can't seem to get the action that

you wish. Generous friends can make this a wonderful day for you. **SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Put off making important practical decisions until all the facts are in and money matters with your family should take precedence.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You will be very much in tune with members of your own household now. A new set of circumstances can and a flair to your romance.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Don't let a jealous outside associate keep you from being with your friends. You will be given many worthwhile ideas for expanding your assets.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) At your home entertain and bring joy to all who need assistance. So many friends have good ideas for your welfare, that you need to discriminate.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Spend all possible moments with your attachment. An argument with a business associate now could decrease your income.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be a natural salesperson who will have many successes early in life and will understand just how to be involved with other persons in their field. An early marriage will work out to the advantage of all concerned as long as it doesn't interfere with educational pursuits.

"The stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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THE RIGHT WAY

Both vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH

♠ K 10 9

♥ 2

♦ Q 8 6 5 3

♣ A J 6

WEST

♠ A 8 7 4

♥ 5 3 3

♦ 2

♣ Q 10 9

West led the five of hearts and declarer did not think there was anything to worry about. He took the ace of hearts, cashed the ace of dia-

monds and continued with a diamond to the king. West's eight of spades discard was a mortal blow. There was no way declarer could come to nine tricks without letting the enemy gain the lead to cash their hearts.

Declarer fouled up his entries. There were two suits that could produce the necessary tricks. If the diamonds did not run, a winning club finesse might allow declarer to bring in that suit. There was nothing wrong with taking the ace of hearts at trick one. At trick two, however, declarer should have led a diamond to the king and then a diamond back to the ace. If the suit breaks, the king of clubs in dummy is an entry to cash the rest of the diamonds.

However, when West shows out on the second diamond, declarer is in the right place to change horses. After a club to the jack wins, it needs only a 3-2 club break for declarer to get home with one heart trick, three diamonds and five clubs.

SOUTH

♠ Q J 2

♥ A 10 9

♦ A 4

♣ K 7 5 3 2

The bidding:

North: East: South: West:

1-6 Pass 2 NT Pass

3-0 Pass 3 NT Pass

Pass Pass

Opening lead: Five of ♠

"Order is Heaven's first law," wrote Alexander Pope. It should be every bridge player's, too.

North rebid his six-card diamond suit just in case South had a hole somewhere. Since the ace of diamonds looked like an excellent card, for no trump purposes and all the unbid suits were securely stopped, South insisted on the nine-trick game.

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift

ACROSS

- 1 Gobs
- 2 Painter
- 3 Locus
- 4 Aid a felon
- 5 Opposed
- 6 hoy entrant
- 7 A Columbian ship
- 8 off (angry)
- 9 The heavens
- 10 Fruit
- 11 Instrument
- 12 Eye
- 13 Brando
- 14 Tough
- 15 Pie — mode
- 16 An Adams
- 17 Reed
- 18 Instrument
- 19 1002
- 20 Chickens
- 21 Comprehend
- 22 Part of a.m.
- 23 Gen. Robt.
- 24 Before
- 25 Highways: abbr.
- 26 Wanderers
- 27 Calm
- 28 Hebrides
- 29 Island
- 30 Dance
- 31 It's New in CT
- 32 Racketeer
- 33 shots?
- 34 Swiss painter
- 35 Due
- 36 Easy gait
- 37 Building wings
- 38 Insects
- 39 Hill dwellers
- 40 Dog — of summer

DOWN

- 1 Zest
- 2 Rose's love
- 3 Gambling city
- 4 Surprised
- 5 Apportion
- 6 Ryan or
- 7 Tatum
- 8 Watch your —
- 9 Staff member
- 10 Went ahead of
- 11 Wood-shaping tool
- 12 Ales in Dresden
- 13 Fair mark
- 14 Go amiss
- 15 Sticky
- 16 Airport area
- 17 Brown or
- 18 Mason
- 19 Slurred over a
- 20 syllable
- 21 Slaveless
- 22 Joins together
- 23 Stick
- 24 Mob member
- 25 Predicaments
- 26 Lawyers' gp.
- 27 Wages
- 28 Prefix with
- 29 view
- 30 Holy woman: abbr.
- 31 Made a comment
- 32 Unpleasant
- 33 Stop — dine
- 34 Incident
- 35 Clumsy
- 36 Festive
- 37 Sacred image
- 38 By way of
- 39 Actress
- 40 Reine
- 41 Squinting
- 42 Minus
- 43 Glutton
- 44 Plant
- 45 Bribe

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↓		↓
0425 Thu.	Karachi	d. 0830

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Cinema **CONCORD** Tel: 677420

Shirhan, Farouq Al Fishawi in **THE GUIDE** (Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10

Cinema **PHILADELPHIA** Tel: 634144

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It isn't always an invitation to a kiss.

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30 p.m.

Cinema **NIJOU** Tel: 675571

Mel Gibson & Darryl Glover in **Lethal Weapon "2"**

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Shevardnadze, at NATO, says alliances are force for stability

BRUSSELS (R) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, on an unprecedented visit to North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) headquarters, said the Warsaw Pact and the Western alliance had an important stabilising role to play as Europe changes.

Speaking after an hour's talks with NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner, which he described as "very necessary, very good and very useful," Shevardnadze said cooperation between the two military blocs should continue.

"I do believe that the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, at this crucial stage in European development, are able to play a very important stabilising role," he told reporters.

"I spoke in favour of further developing the cooperation... I do believe we will have (it)." Both men had agreed that the prospects for East-West arms treaties to cut conventional forces and strategic nuclear weapons next year were good, Shevardnadze said.

Woerner also described the

talks as "important and useful, with a very extensive exchange of views."

Shevardnadze's visit was the first time a Warsaw Pact minister has entered NATO's closely-guarded headquarters, the nerve centre of the Western alliance.

He was driven through the gates and up to the main entrance of the sprawling complex on the outskirts of Brussels in a black limousine, a Soviet hammer-and-sickle pennant fluttering on its bonnet.

He was greeted at the main entrance by Woerner. Shevardnadze also briefly met ambassadors from the 16 NATO allies.

"Are we doing everything all right?" Shevardnadze asked photographers and reporters as the two men shook hands under the NATO emblem of a four-

pointed star.

They then walked to Woerner's office, along corridors lined with posters warning NATO officials and diplomats not to engage in "loose talk" that could give away Western defence secrets.

Shevardnadze had requested the visit, which was welcomed by alliance foreign ministers at a meeting last week as a further sign of the rapid East-West thaw.

The very idea of such a visit would, until recently, have been dismissed as absurd.

Woerner made it clear in advance that he, as NATO secretary-general, had no mandate from the allies to negotiate with Shevardnadze who was visiting as Soviet foreign minister — not as an official representative of the Warsaw Pact.

Shevardnadze, who signed his country's first trade and cooperation pact with the European Community (EC) Monday, was due to fly to London later Tuesday for a brief meeting with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher before returning to Moscow.

He joked on Monday that he would visit NATO headquarters

to see whether the alliance was worth joining.

"I intend to visit the headquarters, we'll have a look at (NATO) and then we'll decide whether it's worth joining," he told a news conference.

"I saw in one of the newspapers that Shevardnadze... is penetrating the volcano's crater. Well, we'll see. I think we'll have an interesting and positive discussion."

Woerner said Shevardnadze "mentioned the very essential role of the Americans here in Europe."

He said Shevardnadze expressed interest in setting up formal contacts between the two military alliances.

Woerner said he told the Soviet official that any such decision would have to be made by all NATO nations and that the Warsaw Pact would have to be made by all NATO nations and that the Warsaw Pact would have to make further changes before such a move could be considered.

Both officials said they agreed that an accord could be wrapped up next year on reducing conven-



Eduard Shevardnadze

tional, or non-nuclear, weapons in Europe. Those talks are under way between the Warsaw Pact and NATO in Vienna.

NATO and the Warsaw Pact are negotiating to sharply reduce tanks, armoured personnel carriers and other conventional weapons in Europe. The West wants to slash what it sees as the Soviets' enormous superiority in these arms.

Shevardnadze and Woerner also agreed a superpower agreement could be worked out next year on reducing long-range nuclear weapons.

Kohl, Modrow meet in Dresden

DRESDEN, East Germany (Agencies) — The leaders of East and West Germany held their first meeting in Dresden Tuesday and quickly agreed to a follow-up early next year.

Bonn's Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his host, East German Prime Minister Hans Modrow, left their first session beaming with satisfaction and speaking of progress.

Kohl told reporters the meeting would take place in late January or early February in West Germany. A member of his delegation later said it would be in Bonn.

Saying he hoped their first meeting would go down as an "historical hour" for Germany, Kohl said: "I think we have reached some very good results."

Modrow agreed, adding that the two leaders got to know each other during their one-on-one talks and believed they could work well together in future. Neither gave further details.

Kohl said there would be a "satisfactory statement on our treaty community," using Modrow's phrase for closer cooperation.

Modrow said the cooperation he and Kohl planned would go far beyond the previous level of trade and investment.

Thousands of cheering Dresdeners greeted Kohl with cries of "Deutschland, Deutschland" when he arrived Tuesday morning for a visit eagerly awaited by East Germans hoping for swift Western aid for their crumbling economy.

According to West German delegation sources, Kohl plans to offer financial guarantees of more than six billion marks (\$3.5 billion) to encourage West German private investment in East Germany's crumbling economy.

Contacts between East and West German politicians have raced ahead in recent weeks after the collapse of East Berlin's hard-line communist system tore down one of the main stumbling blocks between the two countries.

West German President Richard von Weizsäcker met acting East German head of state Manfred Gerlach and Modrow in Potsdam Sunday. Several West German politicians also attended party conferences in East Berlin and Leipzig at the weekend.

Dresden workers in hard hats and overalls had abandoned their jobs for a glimpse of the visiting chancellor and his aides, who brought along a sheaf of economic cooperation agreements to be signed at the summit.

"This is an important day for us in Germany," Kohl said upon arrival. "Now we must take the correct steps with accuracy and responsibility."

"We are beginning today a labour that will leave us with much to do in the future," Modrow told East German television as he sat down to talk with Kohl.

"How optimistic one can be will be clear at the end of the day," Kohl also said to meet with church leaders, cultural figures and representatives of the fledgling opposition returning to Bonn Wednesday.

Gandhi passes chance to challenge Singh

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India's Congress Party, consigned to the opposition benches for only the second time in its history, Tuesday passed over its first chance to challenge the new minority government.

It allowed the unanimous election of Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's candidate for speaker of the Lok Sabha (Lower House of Parliament), Rabi Ray.

Congress leader Rajiv Gandhi, whose 193 seats give him the largest parliamentary opposition in India's history, told parliament "we pledge our full cooperation (to Ray) as the largest party in this house."

But he complained of lack of consultation in the choice of Ray, who was a minister in India's only previous non-Congress government from 1977 to 1979.

Information Minister Parvathani Uppendra told a news conference he had given Gandhi several chances to propose an alternative candidate. "We have not committed any breach of faith," he said.

Senior Manila army commander ambushed

MANILA (AP) — Gunmen ambushed and wounded the commander of a major military camp and then killed a policeman who tried to intervene in the daylight ambush Tuesday, the military reported.

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Amoyo was rushed to a hospital with three gunshot wounds and was to undergo surgery, doctors said. They said he was in stable condition.

Police quoted a witness as saying the gunmen then tried to drive their car across a traffic median but got stuck. A policeman, Mario Hernandez, drove by the site and was warned by the gunmen not to intervene. Hernandez drew his pistol and was killed before he could fire, police said.

The assailants then abandoned the car, commandeered a taxi and escaped, police said.

Camp Bagong Diwa is the headquarters of the Philippine constabulary's capital command, which is responsible for security in the Manila area.

It was unclear whether the assailants were communist rebels or whether the attack was related to the recent failed coup attempt or to ambushes in the capital Monday, police said.

On Monday, suspected communist guerrillas killed police Captain Artemio Trinidad in a daylight attack in a southern suburb. He was on his way to a conference on new measures to increase security following the

Singh's National Front has just 144 of the 520 elected seats in the Lok Sabha but both the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and left-wing parties have promised support.

Singh has until the end of the month to win a vote of confidence from the new parliament. Officials expect the crucial debate to take place Thursday.

Ray, 63, was elected to the Lok Sabha from an eastern Indian constituency in Orissa state as a candidate of the Janata Dal (People's Party) of V.P. Singh.

Four other National Front partners endorsed Ray for speaker. Ray was also backed by the BJP and the left front, a group of Communist parties.

The two extremes of the political spectrum have promised to prop up Singh's minority government.

Ray is the ninth speaker and will preside over the house and conduct the daily proceedings. The new parliament convened its first session after last month's elections Monday.

Senior Manila army commander ambushed

Dec. 1-9 coup attempt and to prevent Communist guerrillas from exploiting the turmoil, police said.

Also Monday, gunmen killed retired Lt. Col. Antonia Camus in an attack in the Pasig suburb. Camus had left active duty and operated a private security firm, police said. There was no indication of the motive for the killing.

Elsewhere, the military said four communist rebels were killed and an undetermined number of others wounded during a clash Monday in Aurora province northeast of Manila.

There were no government casualties, military reports said. In Batang province, west of the capital, four suspected communists were arrested Monday during a raid in the town of Moring. Police said the suspects were believed to have been part of the rebel's logistical support network.

More than 20 soldiers, policemen and civilians have been killed in suspected Communist attacks since the coup attempt, the sixth and bloodiest bid to topple President Corason Aquino.

Economic Planning Secretary Jesus Estanislao told reporters Tuesday that preliminary estimates indicated the failed coup cost the country about 30 billion pesos (\$1.3 billion).

Estanislao did not say how he arrived at the figure, but presumably it included damage caused in the fighting, lost work and reductions in investment.

He said that because of the coup attempt, the government expected the economy to grow by five per cent this year rather than 6 per cent, as originally estimated.

COLUMN

Pigeons to race

BANGKOK (AP) — About 1,700 carrier pigeons from 20 countries are to participate in a 610-kilometre race in the second Asian and Pacific Carrier Pigeon Contest, an organiser said Monday. The birds will take off for the one-day flight Feb. 17 from the northern city of Chiang Rai to the loft of a riverside hotel in Bangkok, said Joan Sarasin. The contest is being sponsored by the Association of Carrier Pigeon Raisers, the tourism authority of Thailand and Thai Airways International. The winner will be named "TG 30" in honour of the 30th anniversary of the Thai flag carrier, and its owner will receive \$5,000. The first 60 birds to finish are to be auctioned off, with half the proceeds going to mentally retarded children. The birds arrived in Thailand in May and since have been trained to "home" for the hotel loft. The hotel was chosen for its location on the Chao Phraya River, which will guide the birds in their flight from Chiang Rai. Most of the pigeon owners are from Europe, where carrier pigeon racing is a traditional sport.

Cows like perfumes

TALLASSEE, Alabama (AP) — Scientists looking into ways of boosting milk production have discovered the sweet smell of success in anise oil. Dairy cows got along better when sprayed with the licorice-scented fragrance, and when cows feel at ease, they give more milk, say researchers Keith Cummins and Lawrence Myers of Auburn University. "Most people seem to find a little bit of humour in it," Cummins said. "I try to emphasise that this has a serious application, but it makes me smile, too."

Cummins said dairy cows must be regrouped every two to four weeks to maximise production, and feed efficiency, forcing the animals to reestablish their "pecking order." That results in biting, pushing and shoving. Cows become nervous and upset, and milk production drops. The loss for a 500-cow dairy could amount to 230 to 320 kilos of milk a month or more, Cummins said. "At \$14 per 100 pounds (45 kilos), it adds up," he added.

Amise spray reduces aggression among cows, Cummins said. As the smell wears off — usually about the third day — the pecking order is already being established. "It wasn't because the sprayed cows smelled good," Cummins said. "What we did was make it so the cows couldn't tell one from the other."

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American-Panamanian tension rises

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — The United States Monday reported a second shooting incident involving American soldiers and Panamanians in three days, adding new tension to deteriorating relations between the two countries.

In Monday's incident, a U.S. army officer apparently wounded a Panamanian policeman, a U.S. defence official in Washington said.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said an American army lieutenant fired twice at the Panamanian traffic officer approached and drew his own gun first.

"The transit (traffic policeman) went down. He got up and left the scene, but it is believed he was wounded — possibly in the leg and the arm," the defence official told reporters.

A U.S. marine officer was

shot and killed by Panamanian Defence Force (PDF) troops Saturday night when four American soldiers, unarmed and wearing civilian clothes, lost their way and encountered a group of civilians and troops, according to U.S. officials.

In an unrelenting war of words, Panama's military ruler General Manuel Antonio Noriega, who is under indictment in the United States on drug charges, told a radio interviewer that American soldiers had fired first and wounded several people in Saturday's shooting.

Panama's Foreign Minister Leonardo Kam accused the United States of a "permanently hostile," policy towards his country.

In Washington, the White House charged that the killing was part of a coordinated wave of violence initiated by Pana-

ma's declaration last Friday that a state of war exists with the United States.

A spokesman for the U.S. southern command said the 12,000 U.S. troops in Panama, who are there to guard the Panama Canal linking the Pacific and Atlantic oceans, had been restricted to base after Saturday's shooting.

President George Bush called the killing of the American "an enormous outrage" and would not rule out military action.

Since February 1988, when Noriega was indicted in Florida on narcotics charges, the United States has tried to drive him from power with economic, diplomatic and political pressure.

Noriega denies the charges. He claims Washington wants to renege on treaties under which the United States is to transfer control of the canal to Panama

at the end of the century and close U.S. military installations.

Thousands of U.S. soldiers lived in Panama City until earlier this year, when they and their dependents were ordered to move out to the bases. Many dependents returned to the United States.

The U.S. television network reported Monday night that a 1,000-man force from the crack 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, had been put on alert and was prepared to go to Panama, if necessary.

A U.S. defence spokesman said the 18th Airborne Corps was conducting "emergency readiness deployment exercises."

Army Major David Super said the 18th Airborne was the army's contingency corps, and as such it periodically con-

ducted such exercises "to evaluate the readiness of its units."

The PDF, in its version of Monday's incident, said the policeman, Cesar Tejeda, was hit in the forearm by one of two shots from a car he had signalled to stop and which then sped off.

"International press reports wrongly described this incident as a U.S. military source, which completely twisted the truth of this new and more audacious aggression by the southern command against Panama," the PDF said in a statement.

The incidents, and the accompanying war of words between Panama and Washington, increased tension in the canal state following the declaration by its national assembly last Friday that it was in a state of war with the United States.

Bush defends secret dealings with China

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The White House, already bruised by charges of kowtowing to Chinese leaders over this month's visit of top U.S. officials to Peking, has disclosed an earlier mission and said more secret contacts are possible.

"I'm just saying the president believes there are a number of occasions, situations in which he should be able to have private contacts with other leaders of government, including China and other countries," spokesman Martin Fitzwater said.

The White House had earlier Monday confirmed a television report that National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger had secretly visited Peking in early July, about a month after hundreds of pro-democracy students died in a bloody army assault in Tiananmen Square.

"There have been a number of these kinds of meetings and conversations and there will be more," Fitzwater added in defending talks that took place shortly after Bush's June 20 ban on high level contacts between the two countries.

"The president feels there are occasions when these kinds of contacts should take place with-

out public knowledge," Fitzwater added.

A White House statement said the mission in July was intended "to personally underscore the United States' shock and concern about the violence in Tiananmen Square."

In an interview in his office Monday morning before disclosure of the July trip, Bush also defended secrecy.

"I still believe that sometimes to effect change you talk in confidence to people," stated Bush, a former U.S. envoy to China.

He strongly defended the public mission to Peking on Dec. 9 and 10 when Scowcroft publicly exchanged toasts with Chinese leaders and rejected suggestions the gesture might be seen as a salute to those who ordered the Tiananmen assault.

"You're dealing with the aspirations of a billion people and I happen to think that some of the contacts they've had with the United States have led to a better life for a billion people. And I think that is an important point to make. That isn't in any way condoning the brutality that everybody in the world saw in Tiananmen Square," he said.

Bush has been severely criticised for kowtowing to Chinese leaders and abandoning concern



George Bush

for human rights in China by sending Scowcroft and Eagleburger to Peking.

One critic, Democratic National Committee Chairman Ronald Brown said scathingly, "There has not been a decision so out of touch with American values since the sale of arms to the ayatollah." He was referring to former President Ronald Reagan's policy of secretly selling weapons to the late Ruhollah Khomeini's Iran in 1985-86.

Although Bush barred high level contacts and suspended military sales to China after the Tiananmen assault, critics feel he did so reluctantly and is preparing to remove the sanctions altogether.

Imelda Marcos ordered to account for spending

LOS ANGELES (R) — A U.S. judge has ordered the once high-living Imelda Marcos, widow of former Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, to account for what she spends and to obtain court approval in advance for any expenditure over \$10,000.

The court order also requires Mrs. Marcos, who bought hundreds of pairs of shoes, designer clothes and handbags on shopping sprees when her husband was in power, to obtain court approval before accepting any loans of more than \$10,000.

Lawyers for the Philippine government said the Marcos family had violated court orders by transferring assets, including more than \$200 million to help finance a planned invasion of the Philippines.

U.S. Federal Judge Mariana Pfaltzer froze the Marcos assets in 1986 pending trial of a suit brought by the government of President Corason Aquino seeking to recover \$5 billion that the couple is alleged to have stolen from the Philippines.

Pfaltzer said the Philippine government had made a good

showing that her earlier order had been violated. "The money has gone places we didn't want it to go under the injunction," she said.

In their request for the new restrictions, Philippine government lawyers alleged that Marcos and his wife had transferred ownership of two New York buildings, four corporations and at least one Swiss bank account, worth more than \$100 million to Saudi financier Adnan Khashoggi.

Khashoggi was flown from Switzerland to New York last July to stand trial on charges of fraud and obstruction of justice.

Mrs. Marcos went into exile in Hawaii with her husband when he was forced out of office by a popular uprising in February 1986 after 20 years in power.

She is free on bail \$5 million awaiting trial in New York on charges relating to the alleged disappearance of \$109 million from the Philippine treasury and fraudulent borrowing of \$165 million from New York banks to buy property. Pfaltzer's latest order does not apply to legal fees to be met by Mrs. Marcos.

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Mail bombs seen aimed at U.S. civil rights activists

By Lauren Neergaard
The Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Georgia — A lawyer has been killed in his office by a mail bomb and a similar bomb was removed safely from the 11th U.S. circuit court of appeals in Atlanta, two days after a postal bomb killed a judge from the court.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), probing the killing Saturday of U.S. Circuit judge Robert S. Vance near Birmingham, Alabama, said there were "strong similarities" among the three bombs. There also was a link to an August reargas bombing Atlanta.

Robert Robinson, 42, a black civil rights activist, lawyer and city alderman in Savannah, died of his injuries at 8:25 p.m. Monday (0215

GMT Tuesday) while undergoing surgery.

Officials said the blast occurred about 5 p.m. (2200 GMT) in his office in the coastal city in the northeastern corner of the state.

In downtown Atlanta, shaken employees evacuated the five-story 11th Circuit courthouse shortly before 10 a.m. (1500 GMT) Monday after a bomb, in a small brown package, was found "during a random sampling of the mail," said police Major W.W. Holley.

The preliminary investigation (in Savannah) indicates strong similarities to the other explosive devices in Birmingham and Atlanta," said FBI agent Tom Moore.

Moore said FBI and postal service bomb experts who were in Birmingham Sunday and Atlanta Monday were flown to

Savannah.

At a Savannah news conference late Monday, FBI Special Agent Bob Deloch said it was "definitely a possibility" that white supremacists sent the bomb that killed Robinson.

Deloch and Special Agent William Hinchshaw said the FBI was warning lawyers, judges and activists of the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People (NAACP) in Georgia and Alabama to beware of strange packages.

Hinchshaw said the FBI also warned the NAACP that the attacks appear to be related to the Aug. 22, 1989, tear-gas mail bomb attack at NAACP's Atlanta office, in which eight people, including an infant, were